

# RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

## Board Members' Biographies

### **Reenie Barrow**

Photographer/Artist

Reenie Barrow is a photographer who has displayed her work in more than 100 US and international exhibits, including shows at the Association of International Photography Dealers in New York City, Art Institute of Chicago, the International Center of Photography in New York City, the Cuban Center for Photography, Havana, Cuba, and the Zappion National Gallery in Athens, Greece. In addition, numerous private and corporate collections (among them Reader's Digest, IBM, Fidelity Investments, Connecticut Bank and Trust and the Art Institute of Chicago) permanently house Barrow's photographs. Among the honors Barrow has received is the Kostas Macadonias Award from the Ministry of Culture of Greece and the Hellenic Center of Photography. It is presented every two years to four individuals "for their contribution to Hellenic photography and to the culture of Greece through photography." Her book of photography and poetry, *The Wreath of Dreams, Visions of Greek Villages*, was published by Kastaniotis Editions, Athens, Greece. Since moving to Rhode Island in 1989, Barrow has become involved in community and statewide organizations and has been actively involved in fundraising for several causes. She has served on a variety of boards: the Bristol Art Museum, as well as being the curator of exhibitions; Blithewold Mansion, Gardens, and Arboretum; the Art League of Rhode Island; and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, RI. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Barrow resides in Bristol, RI.

### **Phoebe Bean, MLS**

Librarian, Rhode Island Historical Society

Phoebe Bean has diverse experience centered on the production and organization of information. She studied Islam and Early Christianity at Brown University, receiving her B.A. in 1994. Bean worked as a research analyst for companies including Jupiter Communications and Gartner Management Consulting before receiving her Masters of Library and Information Science in 2003 from the University of Rhode Island. Since 2004, she has worked at the Robinson Research Center of the Rhode Island Historical Society in Providence, where she is now Librarian and responsible for the extensive collection of early Rhode Island imprints, rare books and manuscripts. She is the

Immediate Past-President of the John Russell Bartlett Society and Past-President of both the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic & Research Libraries (CRIARL) and the R.I. Center for the Book. Bean is also a board member of the Friends of the Brown University Library and a professional member of the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA), New England Archivists (NEA) and the American Printing History Association (APHA). She is a certified craftsman in traditional, hand book binding having studied with Daniel Knowlton of Bristol, R.I.

### **Christina Bevilacqua**

Exhibitions & Programs Director, Providence Public Library

Christina Bevilacqua is a cultural curator who uses the arts and humanities to cultivate conversation among diverse publics. She is currently Director of Exhibitions and Programs at the Providence Public Library and serves as Conversationalist-in-Residence at Trinity Repertory Company Theater in Providence, RI. For eleven years she curated public programming at the Providence Athenaeum, where in 2006 she founded the Providence Athenaeum Salon, a weekly event bringing Athenaeum members and the general public together for conversations on history, the arts, fashion, collecting, literature, food, music, science, education, and urban policy. In 2013 the RI Council for the Humanities awarded her the Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities in recognition of the impact that the Salon has had on cultural life in the state. She has been a Community Fellow at Brown University's John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage since 2014. Previously she directed educational programming at Leadership Rhode Island for three years. She earned a BA in Writing and Literature from Bard College and an MA in Social Policy from the University of Chicago. In addition to her work in publishing, social services, retail, and criminal justice in New York, Boston, Chicago, and Providence, she spent eight years as a custom milliner.

### **Winnie Brownell, PhD**

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Rhode Island (Retired 2017)

Dr. Winifred Brownell joined the URI faculty in 1971. Prior to her appointment as Dean in 1999, Dr. Brownell served for 3 years as Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, 5 years as Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, and over 20 years on the faculty of Communication Studies at URI. She received a PhD in Communication from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She was supported in part by a National Science Foundation Fellowship. Her interdisciplinary doctoral studies included a number of courses in Computer Programming, Statistics, and Neurophysiology. She has taught a variety of courses including the following: Aging, Dying and Death, Mortal Questions, Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking, Communication Theory, Women in the Natural Sciences, Research in Communication and Media, and Aging and Communication. In 1988, she received the URI Foundation Teaching Excellence Award, and in 1996 she received the Association of Academic and Professional Women "Woman of the Year" award. In 2014, she received the "Dream Maker Award" from the RI Office of TV and Film. Her publications include articles or essays in *Communication Monographs*, *Communication Quarterly*, *Personnel Journal*, *Communication Research Reports*, *The Encyclopedia of Aging*, *The Gerontologist*, *Discourse*, *The Online Journal for Global Engineering Education*, *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Energy*, and *Befriending Death*.

**Daniel Cavicchi, PhD**

Provost, Rhode Island School of Design

Daniel Cavicchi is Provost at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). He is known internationally for his pioneering research on audiences, especially his books: *Listening and Longing: Music Lovers in the Age of Barnum*, *Tramps Like Us: Music and Meaning Among Springsteen Fans*, and *My Music: Explorations of Music in Daily Life*. His work has included curating the inaugural exhibits for the Grammy Museum and Grammy Museum Mississippi; creating the *Music: Interview* book series at Wesleyan University Press; developing curricula for Experience Music Project and PBS; hosting artist events for Rhode Island's FirstWorks; and serving on the boards of several academic journals. As Dean of Liberal Arts, he stewarded several new initiatives at RISD, including the institution's first interdisciplinary masters degrees, in Global Arts and Cultures and in Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies; the development of a new curricular program in the natural sciences; and a curricular collaboration with LEGO Education in Denmark. Since 2009, he has worked furniture designer Dale Broholm, to develop the Witness Tree Project, an innovative history and design curriculum with the National Park Service. Cavicchi holds degrees from Cornell University, State University of New York at Buffalo, and Brown University. He is the recipient of both the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching from Brown University and the John R. Frazier Award for Excellence in Teaching from Rhode Island School of Design. His book *Listening and Longing* won the 2012 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award, as well as the Peter C. Rollins Book Prize from the Northeast Popular Culture Association.

**C. Alexander Chiulli, Esq**

Attorney at Law, Barton Gillman LLP

C. Alexander Chiulli is an attorney at Barton Gilman LLP, a litigation firm with offices in Boston, Providence, and New York. Chiulli provides legal counsel to individuals, emerging businesses, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions with respect to intellectual property, Internet law, privacy and information law, entrepreneurship, and the First Amendment as well as education law, general liability, employment, contract, and corporate matters. In 2013, Chiulli graduated from Suffolk Law School, with distinction in the area of intellectual property and received Suffolk Law's Stanley W. Sokoloff Intellectual Property Award. He was a judicial intern for the Rhode Island Superior Court, assisting the Honorable Judith Savage. Upon graduating, Chiulli served as a judicial law clerk for the Rhode Island Superior Court, assisting the Honorable Sarah Taft-Carter, the Honorable Luis Matos, and the Honorable Brian Van Couyghen. Prior to law school, Chiulli worked for a range of businesses, from Fortune 500 to start-up, in the areas of business development, project management, and research. A native of the Edgewood area of Cranston, Rhode Island, Chiulli graduated from Cranston High School East in 2000. He obtained a BS in Business Administration from Fairfield University in Connecticut in 2004.

**Elaine B. Fain, MD**

Physician and Community Volunteer

Dr. Elaine Fain is a native of Providence, RI. A graduate of Classical High School, she started her career as an environmental health specialist in New York before changing her career path to internal medicine. Initially employed at RI Hospital and Women & Infants

Hospital, she entered private practice in the Providence area in 1988, retiring in 2015. She now volunteers at the RI Free Clinic. She is a recipient of a Woman of the Year Award from RI Medical Women's Association (RIMWA) and a Community Service Award from the American Medical Women's Association and served on the medical faculty at Brown University. Dr. Fain is involved with numerous civic and charitable organizations in RI. She has served as the President and remains active on the Boards of both RIMWA and the Classical High School Alumni Association. She is past President of her class at Brown and Global Alliance for Immunization against AIDS, past Vice-President of The Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School. She received her MD degree from Columbia University, MSc from Harvard School of Public Health, and BA from Brown University. Dr. Fain and her husband Barry reside in Providence.

### **Michael R. Fein, PhD**

Assistant Dean, John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences, Johnson & Wales University  
Michael R. Fein is Assistant Dean of the John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences and Professor of History at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. Fein is the author of *Paving the Way: New York Road Building and the American State, 1880-1956*, which earned awards from the Public Works Historical Society and the New York State Department of Education. He has presented his research on the politics of American infrastructure at over a dozen national and international conferences. His work on U.S. transportation policy, radio regulation, and Boston's "Big Dig" has appeared in the *Journal of Urban History*, the *Journal of Planning History*, and the *Journal of Policy History*. Before joining the faculty at Johnson & Wales, he taught at Babson College and Brandeis University and served as a Research Associate at Harvard Business School. He received his BA in History from Columbia University and earned his PhD in American History from Brandeis University, where he was a Crown Fellow. He was also selected as a Miller Center Fellow in Contemporary History, Public Policy, and American Politics by the Miller Center for Public Affairs at the University of Virginia. A native of Connecticut, he lives in Massachusetts and has worked in Providence since 2007.

### **Touba Ghadessi, PhD, Chair**

Associate Provost for Academic Administration and Faculty Affairs, Wheaton College  
Touba Ghadessi, PhD, is Associate Provost for Academic Administration and Faculty Affairs at Wheaton College. She is the co-founder of the Wheaton Institute for the Interdisciplinary Humanities (WIIH) and holds a joint position as the president of the oldest Renaissance society in America, the New England Renaissance Conference. In 2016, Ghadessi also joined the Board of Directors of the Providence Athenaeum. She has been awarded grants to study at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris), to conduct archival research in Paris, Florence, and Rome, and to participate in the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique's sponsored seminars in Paris. Ghadessi received her Bachelor's degree from Trinity University and her Master's and PhD from Northwestern University.

### **Froma Harrop**

Nationally Syndicated Columnist

Froma Harrop is a nationally syndicated columnist. Her twice-a-week column has over 100 subscribers, including *The Seattle Times*, *Newsday*, *Denver Post*, *Arizona Republic* and *RealClearPolitics*. She is represented by Creators Syndicate, in Los

Angeles. Harrop is also a contributor to CNN Opinion. Writing on politics, culture and economics, Harrop has been honored by the Loeb Awards and National Society of Newspaper Columnists. She has received five awards from the New England Associated Press News Executives Association. Harrop is a former president of the Association of Opinion Journalists. A graduate of New York University, she lives in Providence, RI, and New York City.

**Polly Hutcheson, Immediate-Past Chair (ex officio)**

Director of Sponsored Programs, Roger Williams University

Polly Hutcheson is Director of Sponsored Programs for Roger Williams University, focusing on partnerships and collaborations that connect faculty and students in research and projects that serve the university and local and global communities. Prior to RWU, she worked for eight years with the US Department of Education, overseeing secondary and postsecondary partnerships, reviewing and evaluating grant projects, and promoting the integration of academic and experiential education. Previously, she spent 14 years with a higher education advocacy organization, ultimately serving as Vice President of Education and Government Relations. Hutcheson holds a BA in Political Science from Wellesley College, and an MA and advanced graduate studies from Fordham University, focused on urban policy analysis and revitalization. She also serves on the board of the Jamestown Historical Society.

**Gina McDonald, CPA, Treasurer**

Senior Consultant, Fiscal Management Associates

Gina McDonald CPA, Treasurer, is a graduate of Rhode Island College with a Bachelor's degree in both Accounting and Spanish. In Gina's 17-year public accounting career, she specialized in accounting and consulting for nonprofits, health care organizations and municipalities in Rhode Island. Currently, working for Fiscal Management Associates, McDonald works with nonprofits throughout New England, specifically striving to build capacity in the finance department. In addition, she is a regular instructor for the CNAP (Certified Nonprofit Accounting Professional Course), the only nationally recognized certification program for nonprofit accounting professionals. McDonald also serves as the Board Treasurer of the Rhode Island College Foundation.

**Kenneth C. Newman**

Independent Consultant

Kenneth C. Newman is an independent consultant working with non-profit organizations, foundations, and government entities. Newman focuses on development, board development, strategic planning, and risk analysis for groups situated in Rhode Island, California, and Mexico City. Newman is a current member of the Advisory Board of Common Cause and the University of Rhode Island College of Arts and Sciences and past board member of the Jamestown Arts Center.

**Julie Nora, PhD, Vice-Chair**

Director, International Charter School

Julie Nora has been Director of the International Charter School in Pawtucket, Rhode Island since 2003. Prior to that appointment, she worked as a teacher of ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) in a several educational settings spanning K-16 and as

an applied researcher at the Education Alliance at Brown University. Her books include *No More Low Expectations for English Learners* and *The Organization of Learning in a 7th/8th Grade ESL Social Studies Classroom*. Her work has also been published in *One Classroom, Many Learners: Best Practices for Today's Multilingual Learners*. She is a member of Rhode Island College President Sanchez's Inclusive Education Commission and has served on the Governor's Funding Formula Working Group, the Governor's Task Force on Diversity in STEM Education, and the Commissioner's Education Equity Task Force, among other commissions. Nora is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a degree in US Intellectual History, received a Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from San Francisco State University and a PhD in Education, specializing in Language, Literacy and Culture from the University of Rhode Island/Rhode Island College. Originally from California, Nora has lived in Rhode Island for the past 20 years.

### **Mary Lee Partington**

Artistic Director, Pawtucket Arts Festival

Mary Lee Partington is an arts and education consultant who currently serves as Pawtucket Arts Festival Artistic Director. She first joined the RICH Board of Directors for the Class of 2005 and served two terms on the grants, finance, and executive committees; first as RICH Board Secretary, Grants Committee Chair, and finally as Chairman of the Board of Directors. In addition to RICH, Partington is New Urban Arts Chairman of the Board of Directors, an organization devoted to youth development through the arts in Providence. With a lifelong pursuit of the creative potential and intercultural opportunities to be found in the traditional arts, Mary Lee is engaged in her field as a writer and performer at the intersection of traditional song, music, spoken word, and dance. Her interest in articulating the story of folk-based American show music and dance has been supported by a recent individual artist grant from RI State Council on the Arts, and her exploration of connections to traditional singing styles is the focus of a Southern New England Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program grant award with funding provided to both organizations by the National Endowment for the Arts. Mary Lee draws inspiration from Rhode Island's rich history of local music, dance, and theatre where she always finds the heart of the arts in the soul of the humanities.

### **Jean Patiky, Secretary**

Fundraising Consultant, RI Chamber Music Concerts, Manton Avenue Project, RI Philharmonic Music School

Jean Patiky is an artist, community leader, educator, and businesswoman. She is an Exhibiting Artist Member of the Providence Art Club, an Artist Member of the Rhode Island Watercolor Society, and a past-member of the Providence Rotary Club where she co-chaired the annual Paint Off Fundraiser. Before moving to Providence in 2007, Jean lived in Miami, FL, where she served as a facilitator and a Board Member for Miami's Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami Program for nearly a decade. As Program Director for Miami's oldest synagogue, she created "Mending Miami," which helped to rebuild 17 sites damaged in Hurricane Andrew. In 2000, she launched "Patiky Hand-Signed Art Cards". Her art cards are currently sold in museums shops, hotels, and purchased as corporate gifts. She worked for Burdines, a Federated Department Store, as their Corporate Consultant and she chaired "Women in Business" at the Banker's Club. In 1996, Jean co-produced "The Magic of Miami" a special section for FORBES Magazine. With a degree in art education from Pennsylvania State University, Jean taught in the

Newton, MA Public Schools and administered and taught in the Continuing Education Arts Program at Miami-Dade College. Jean and her husband Mark, a pilot, photographer and journalist have resided in Providence for the past eleven years, choosing “The Creative Capital” after an extensive search. Recently, she has had an active exhibition schedule and has donated her paintings to support Art Connection RI, as well as many other local non-profit fundraisers. Presently, she serves as a Trustee of the Paul Cuffee School where she weekly volunteers in its art program.

### **James P. Riley**

Workforce Development Liaison, Rhode Island Institute for Labor Studies and Research  
James P. Riley is the retired secretary treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers’ Union Local 328. Jim began his career in the labor movement in 1974 as a meat cutter for Stop and Shop. He went to work full time for UFCW in 1984 as an international representative. He came to Rhode Island in 1997 to help organize workers and represent his local union as a lobbyist and advocate for RI’s working families. As a board member of Justice Assistance, Jim helps advocate for victims of crimes and offender rehabilitation programs. Jim is the “Official Voice” of the Providence St. Patrick’s Day Parade. He is also on the Occupational and Environmental Health Center of RI as board chair and a member of the RI Labor History Society. Prior to being selected for the Council on the Humanities, Jim served two terms on the State’s Council on the Arts. He has also been involved in fundraising efforts for the ALS Association of RI, to which he was awarded the 2017 Advocate of the Year Award. Of all his fundraising activities, Jim is most proud of his efforts on behalf of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Along with his equally hardworking UFCW team, he has helped to raise over \$1,000,000 to date. In 2018, he was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. In his spare time, Jim is an accomplished pen and ink and watercolor artist. His work can be seen in the Rhode Island Governor’s office, the RI AFL-CIO, and several union headquarters across the state. In retirement, Jim works for the RI Institute for Labor Studies and Research where he continues to support the labor community and advocate for immigrant families and the underserved.

### **Rebecca R. Riley**

Philanthropic Advisor/Community Volunteer

Rebecca Riley worked for nearly twenty years as Program Director and Vice President at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago. During her tenure she oversaw multi-million dollar grant making initiatives focused on community development, urban policy and regional planning, and advancing the arts and cultural institutions. Since retiring from MacArthur in 2000, Riley has consulted with national corporations and foundations. She has been an active trustee on many nonprofit boards and continues on the Board of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Washington, D.C. From 2011-2014, Riley joined her husband, US Ambassador to ASEAN, in Jakarta, Indonesia, and traveled and worked throughout Southeast Asia. She currently volunteers for projects in Myanmar, Chicago and Rhode Island. Between schooling at Ohio University and Indiana University, she spent four years as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia, West Africa. Riley shares stewardship of an early 18th century house in Tiverton, RI.

**John Simmonds**

Director, Quality Assurance Management at Fidelity Investments

John Simmonds has played several roles in his career including software engineer, project manager, systems analyst, and software development manager, working in the chemical manufacturing, pharmaceutical, insurance and financial industries. He joined Fidelity Investments in 2006. Mr. Simmonds earned his Bachelors degree from the University of Rochester, his MBA from Pace University and his Project Management Certification from George Washington University.

**Jonathan Stevens**

Planning Director, Town of Cumberland

Jonathan Stevens is an urban planner, project director and policy strategist. He was Governor Lincoln Chafee's special projects director (2011-15), and served as Senator Chafee's policy director (1999-2007). His municipal experience includes planning director of Warwick (1993-99) and Cumberland (since 2016), and Newport economic development director (2007-10). He was also Congressional liaison specialist at the Environmental Protection Agency (1991-92). Stevens has a passion for preserving, enhancing and celebrating American history. In initiating the 350th anniversary celebration of Rhode Island's 1663 Colonial Charter, he directed a team that created a new Charter Museum in the Statehouse that includes a highly designed interpretative space and the Charter presented in encasements that meet National Archives standards. He organized the Newport World Heritage Commission (2014-16), to promote pre-Colonial Rhode Island as the first community in human history to enjoy freedom of religion, separation of church and state and locally-elected government. As State Historic Preservation Officer Stevens helped craft the "Creative and Cultural Economy Bond," approved by 60 percent of voters in 2014, which is providing \$35M to performing arts centers and historic restoration projects. He directed a major public art installation within Rhode Island's Interstate Highway system, including "Discover Beautiful Rhode Island" gateway signs and murals featuring original artwork. Stevens holds a BA in American History from Boston University, a Masters in Community Planning from the University of Rhode Island, and has been an adjunct professor at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design.

**Jessica L. Weinstein**

Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

Jessica L. Weinstein is a lifelong Rhode Islander and humanities devotee. With a BS in Biology from Providence College and an MA in Humanities from Salve Regina University, she is currently a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley, a position which affords her the opportunity to alleviate the stress, complication, and fear factors faced during the financial decision-making process. She possesses an eager passion for learning and an ardent desire to work with others to create a positive experience for both co-workers and clients alike. Weinstein is on the Board of Millennial RI, a network of young professionals committed to retaining local talent to #ChooseRI as their place to live, work, and grow. Additionally, Weinstein has served for the past four years on the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities' annual Celebration committee and was event co-chair in 2016 and 2017. Additionally, Weinstein is an active member of both the Development and Grants committees. She also volunteers with Sojourner House (a comprehensive domestic violence agency), Rhode Island Public Radio, and the La Salle Academy



Alumni Association. In her free time, Weinstein enjoys writing, traveling, and crafting artworks of stained glass. She resides in Providence, RI.

**Don E. Wineberg**

Partner, Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman, LLP

Don Wineberg leads Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman's health law practice. He has extensive expertise in mergers, acquisitions and affiliations, joint venture structuring, HMO and preferred provider relations, governance, fraud and abuse compliance, antitrust compliance, medical staff relations, HIPAA compliance, information technology contracting, physician recruitment, reimbursement, general counsel issues and tax exemption. Don has been practicing Health Law for over thirty years. Don received his degree in Health and Society with honors from Brown University and graduated from Washington and Lee Law School cum laude. He is active in community affairs, including Board service on Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, The Guttmacher Institute, Rhode Island Public Radio, Acadia Center, Festival Ballet Providence, Trinity Repertory Company, the Jamestown Zoning Board of Review, the Jamestown Wind Energy Committee, Conanicut Yacht Club and HealthSource RI. He is currently serving as Chair of Acadia Center and has previously served as Commodore of Conanicut Yacht Club and Chair of Festival Ballet Providence, the HealthSource RI Expert Advisory Committee, the Jamestown Wind Energy Committee and Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island.