



# Narragansett Society Newsletter

Fall, 2025



## Save the Date!!! October 18th!!!!

Let's celebrate International Archaeology Day, join the AIA Narragansett Society for a fun Saturday full of archaeological activities on October 18, 2025 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.!

### Activities Include...

- In Rhode Island Hall and on the Main Green of Brown University, come see ancient coins from Greece and Rome up close! Touch ancient animal bones! Examine and draw Persian, Roman, and Mayan ceramics, prehistoric tools, precious metals, lithics, and other artifacts from thousands of years ago, here in Rhode Island and all over the world! Talk with Brown's archaeologists, archaeology students, and professional archaeologists about their fieldwork here and abroad! Legion III Cyrenaica reenactors will be there in full Roman combat attire! See the equipment archaeologists use in the field, from Total Station, GNSS, as well as the use of GIS for site planning and investigation.
- Visit the lawn in front of List Art Building (64 College Street), come be part of an active archaeological excavation! Students from ARCH 1900: The Archaeology of College Hill will be digging the site of a 19th century home and processing artifacts from that household. Stop by anytime to see what artifacts students are discovering or even try your hand at digging. Family friendly, free and open to the public. This event is sponsored by AIA and the Joukowsky Institute.

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## Announcements:

We are sad to announce that our own Liza Davis will be stepping down from her position as Vice President/Secretary.

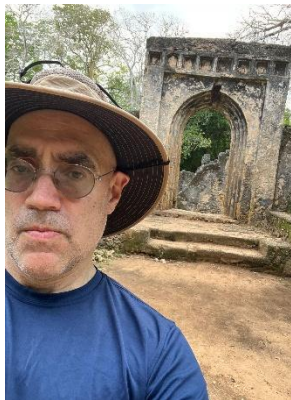


Liza is completing her PhD in Archaeology at the Joukowsky Institute, as well as an MA in Religious Studies. She is stepping down to complete her dissertation, which focuses on her research interests on the mechanics and effects of the spread of Christianity in the eastern Mediterranean during Late Antiquity; network analysis, spatial statistics, and GIS; geoarchaeology, soil science, and environmental history; and the preservation and presentation of cultural heritage. Liza has been on the governing board for six years now, and her enthusiasm, passion, ideas, commitment, and presence will be missed immensely.

## Welcome to:

### **Tobias Lederberg – Vice-President**

[tlederberg@gmail.com](mailto:tlederberg@gmail.com)



Tobias has been passionate about archaeology for nearly fifty years. He began his studies with Professor Martha Joukowsky at Brown University while still in high school, and later at Harvard College he took graduate-level archaeology courses that deepened his commitment to the field. Tobias went on to teach *Field Methods in Historical Archaeology* at Harvard Summer School, where he led excavations of Harvard's Indian College (built around 1660 to educate members of the Massachusetts tribe). Over the years, he has volunteered with the Brown Public Archaeology Lab (later the Public Archaeology Lab), co-founded and served as President of the Rhode Island Archaeological Society, and helped create the City of Providence's first Honorary Archaeologist position to recognize Professor William Simmons, a leading authority on the archaeology of the Narragansett Indians.

### **Elaine K. Tam – Secretary**

[e.tam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:e.tam@sbcglobal.net)



Elaine is currently an Archaeology student at the University of Leicester. She formerly completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Computer Engineering at McGill University in Montreal, where she hails from originally. After a 25-year career in hi-tech, mostly in Santa Clara, CA, she retired to travel and to "worldschool" her then-middleschooler son, while pursuing her interests in archaeology. Now based in RI, she has been involved in fieldwork in Spain and the UK.

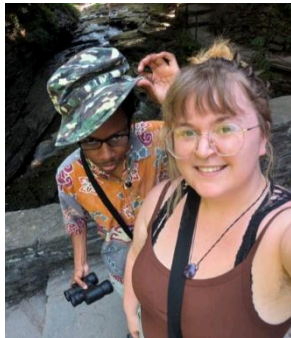
## New Board Members:



**Jane Williams**

[janestellswill@gmail.com](mailto:janestellswill@gmail.com)

Jane lives with her fiancé and three pets in Narragansett. She enjoys reading in her hammock, kayaking the Narrow River, and catching up on the latest Josh Gates expedition from her couch. In her professional life, Jane works as a graphic designer, photographer, and video creator for RIPTA.



**Bryn Csanadi**

[bryncsanadi@gmail.com](mailto:bryncsanadi@gmail.com)

Bryn lives in Providence with her partner and their two cats. She loves outdoor roller skating, longboarding, and baking in her free time. She is currently an undergraduate student at Southern New Hampshire University studying anthropology, and is expected to graduate in a year and a half. She is still searching to find her niche in the field, but is currently interested in the diets of people in the past and present. Bryn looks forward to continuing to learn more about archeology and seeing where this field takes her!

With the addition of our new board members we are committed more than ever to making archaeology more visible in the state of Rhode Island! We hope to offer more lectures, fieldwork opportunities, events, as well as sharing of research, funding and networking throughout our state!

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## Upcoming Events:

### **AIA Archaeology Hour**

*AIA Archaeology Hours is back! Each presentation will be given at 8pm Eastern*

**October 22, 2025 – Justin Leidwanger:** “Shipping Stone for Justinian’s Empire?”

[Register for Webinar](#)

**November 12, 2025 – Alison Futrell:** “The People’s Arena”

[Register for Webinar](#)

Visit the AIA website to learn more about this and the rest of our AAH 2025/26 lineup.

### **And around Rhode Island ...**

**Saturday, October 4, 2025: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** [blackstoneheritagecorridor.org](https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org)

Blackstone River State Park Archaeology Tour at Captain Wilbur Kelly House, Lincoln, RI

**“Explore the Blackstone Valley with a ranger on this archaeology-themed walking tour.”**

**Saturday, October 11, 2025: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.** [tourblackstone.com](https://tourblackstone.com)

Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark, Pawtucket, RI

**“I Dig Slater Mill Open House: A free open house with activities for Archaeology Month.**

**Learn about past digs at the mill, see artifacts, and participate in hands-on activities.”**

**Saturday, October 25, 2025: 10: a.m. - 4 p.m.** [rihs.org](https://rihs.org)

The John Brown House Museum, Providence, RI

Saturdays in the 1700s: Mourning Traditions **“Learn about 18th-century mourning customs, jewelry, and memorial practices from costumed living historians.”**

**Wednesday, October 1, November 5, and Wednesday, December 3, 2025: 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Heritage Hall, North Smithfield, RI [blackstoneheritagecorridor.org](https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org)

**Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Event.** Join Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and the North Smithfield Heritage Association to transcribe historic records from the War for Independence.

**Tuesday, November 11 - 15, 2025** [apti.org](https://apti.org)

Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI

Association for Preservation Technology International Conference. **An international conference focused on advancements in preservation technology.**

**Saturday, November 16, 2025** [americancountryhousefoundation.org](https://americancountryhousefoundation.org)

Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

**Country House Conference 2025.** A conference exploring the history and preservation of Rhode Island country houses, from rural farms to grand seaside estates.