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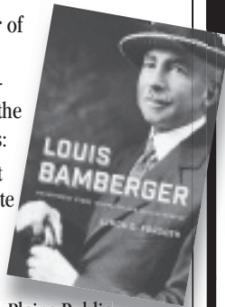
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**Forgosh Speaks About Bamberger Book**

Linda Forgosh, author of the book on the life of Louis Bamberger, will continue her presentations at the following dates and venues:

- April 7, 2017 – 4p.m. at NJIT (New Jersey Institute for Technology) Central King Building, Room 219 Newark, NJ.
- May 4 – 7 p.m. at Scotch Plains Public Library 1927 Bartle Avenue Scotch Plains, NJ
- May 16 – (11:30am) at Congregation AABJ&D, 700 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange for the group “*Together on Tuesday*” for the Felice Blank Senior Program. Title of program is “*Bamberger’s Birthday Bash*” (Bamberger’s birthday is May 15)



**Thanks!**

*This JHSNJ newsletter is funded by a generous donation from the Klein/Fien Philanthropic Fund which enables the Society to publish its biannual newsletters. The fund is managed by Judie Fien-Helfman & Mark Fien, children of the Society’s founders, Ruth and Jerome Fien.*

Hal Braff continued from page 1

rectors of the nationally-acclaimed marriage psycho-education course, PAIRS.

**Many recognitions**

Hal has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America, Best Attorneys in New Jersey, and in 2013 was named Lawyer of the Year by New York Magazine.

**Calendar of Events**

**Lasting Impressions Gala**

May 10, 2017– 6:30 to 9:30 pm  
 Crystal Plaza in Livingston

**Exhibit: “Synagogues of Newark.”**

May 18 to August 31, 2017  
 Atrium of JCC, Route 10, Whippany

**Presentation of Intergenerational Program**

June 2, 2017 at 2 Noon  
 1155 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange

**JHS Annual Membership Meeting**

Speakers: Gabe Kahn and Shira Vicar-Fox  
 “The New Face of the New Jersey Jewish News”  
 June 14, 2017–7:00pm  
 Aidekman JCC, Route 10, Whippany

His civil rights activities go back over 50 years when he served as Counsel to CORE (Congress on Racial Equality) and worked alongside well-known activist, Bob Curvin, during the period of unrest in Newark in 1967. He is a lifetime member of NAACP.

He and his wife Elaine live in North Caldwell, NJ. They have six children, Adam, Joshua, Shoshannah, Zach Braff; Jennifer Gelman and Jessica Kirson. They have 10 grandchildren. ♦♦

*Archival documents from 1751 to the present* ♥ *Memories from our past create visions for our future*

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**President’s Message**

**D**ov Ben-Shimon, Federation’s chief executive officer, writing recently in his blog, *The Corridor*, addressed what has been called “the diminishing thickness of Jewish peoplehood.” He expressed concern with this “dire prophecy.” He said of the new reality facing our Jewish community, “The knowledge, belief, arts, morals, customs and habits which always shaped us and our behavior have moved away in ways we’re only just beginning to understand.” He continued, “Our job, right now, is to create an exciting and compelling narrative to speak meaningfully to everyone in the community, and allow each individual to shape their sense of community for themselves.” His recommendation: “We need to do more showing, more storytelling, more events and more touching, tasting, and smelling.”



Robert G. Rose

Dov’s comments and recommendation speak to the very essence of the mission of the Jewish Historical Society: the promotion of our Jewish identity and continuity by bringing its communal history to life through public forums and exhibits; and by insuring that its rich history will be available to future generations through its collection and preservation in our archives.

**JHS more vital than ever**

With the growing challenge of maintaining Jewish identity and continuity in our community, your support of the JHS is more vital now than ever, as our Society reaches out to newer generations who have only limited knowledge of “Jewish peoplehood.”

You can show your support by attending the Society’s annual fund raiser, our Lasting Impressions Gala at the Crystal Plaza on May 10th. This year, the Society honors Hal Braff, a distinguished attorney and civil rights activist with a career of almost 60 years in practice, a true “Newarker,” a leader of the Weequahic High School Alumni community, and a life-long supporter of Jewish causes.

This issue of our Bulletin speaks to the “story-telling and the events” that the JHS brings to the community. Be sure to attend and participate, and in Dov’s words, “touch, taste and smell.” ♦♦

**Hal Braff to be Honored at JHS Lasting Impressions Gala**

The Jewish Historical Society of NJ will be honoring one of its own, Hal Braff, at the Lasting Impressions Award Gala on May 10, 2017, to be held at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston, New Jersey.



Robert G. Rose, JHSNJ President, stated, “Hal is so deserving of this honor, not only because he has served diligently as a board member of the Society for a decade, but, as well, for his outstanding efforts as a civil rights attorney, an outstanding trial attorney and for his national reputation as the Director of Inn Development for the National Inns of Court Foundation. Hal has shown exemplary leadership as co-founder and President of the Weequahic Alumni Association where he has led efforts to supply college scholarships to African-American students at the Newark high school. We join the entire community in bestowing this coveted honor!”

Braff commented, “I am so very grateful for this acknowledgment. I thank the Jewish Historical Society for its recognition that the work I’ve done in the interest of Black-Jewish relations merits this honor.”

**Education and law practice**

Hal is a graduate of Weequahic High School, class of June, 1952, received his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wisconsin and his LLB at Rutgers University School of Law. He then joined the law firm founded by his father, Braff, Litvak and Ertag, where he remained through several name changes until 2003. Since then he has been associated with the law firm of Margulies Wind in Jersey City.

He was admitted to the New Jersey State, New York State and Federal Bars, and has appeared before the U.S. Court of Appeals (Third Circuit). He has had extensive civil trial experience in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and, for the last twenty years, has served as a mediator and ar-

bitrator. He is a past member of the Supreme Court of New Jersey District Ethics Committee and has served as Chairman of New Jersey IOLTA Fund Board.

**Teaching experience**

Hal has, for many years, served as an adjunct professor at Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, teaching trial techniques and negotiation skills. He has also taught trial

presentation as a visiting professor at the University of San Diego Law School and negotiating skills at Beijing University in its International MBA Program.

**Many professional awards**

Hal served for three years as President of Temple Sha’arey Shalom in Springfield and as Co-chair of the Israel Bond and UJA committees there. He is a recipient of the Ben Gurion Award from Israel Bonds, the A. Sherman Christensen Award given in the United States Supreme Court by the American Inns of Court Foundation, Special Recognition Award given by the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey, Special Merit Award given by the Essex County Bar Association, Special Award given by the New Jersey Inns of Court, the Daniel J. O’Hern Award presented by the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law, and the Richard K. Jeydel Award for excellence in ADR. He served for eleven years on the Board of the National Inns of Court Foundation, including two years as National Vice-President.

Hal is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Mental Health Association of Essex County and has served as Chairman of the Board of Di-

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*Recipient of a General Operating Support Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission a division in the Department of State*



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# JHS Intergenerational Program In its 8th Year

By Mali Schwartz

This is the eighth year that the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey will be offering the oral history intergenerational program, "HIStory, HERstory: Gaining a Deeper Understanding of History Using Personal Accounts," at the Daughter of Israel Geriatric Center. Over 200 West Orange Freshman High School honors students have participated in this program. According to Douglas Drabik, Social Studies teacher and program facilitator, "My students have told me time and time again that they enjoyed participating in the program much more than they originally thought they would. We now have a waiting list of over 80 students who are interested in participating, but only 32 of my students will participate due to how many senior residents are available."

Began in 2009

Drabik, who introduced this program to the West Orange High School in the fall of 2009, has learned from his students what works and what doesn't. "The students' best part of the interview process takes place during lunch when everyone is more relaxed and the atmosphere is more social. They enjoy connecting with their senior friends and many visit them or stay in touch through email afterward", he added.

Developed by Mali Schwartz

Mali Schwartz, program developer and former JHS board member stated, "Being flexible and evaluating the various components of the program each year helps us to understand the needs of the students and senior residents. The success of a program depends on many things. We have been blessed that each team player has taken this program very seriously. The Daughters of Israel has made the running of this program possible in providing the space, staff, and lunch for program participants. West Orange High School has bought into integrating this program into its curriculum."

Coordinated by Bob Singer

Bob Singer, JHSNJ Secretary, who is the program liaison for the Society, attends each meeting where he facilitates oral interviews between the students and seniors and arranges for JHS Past President, Bob Max, to speak at one of the field trips about his experience in overcoming adversity during WWII as a prisoner of war.

Grant by Schenck Foundation

The Lillian P. Schenck Foundation, who since its inception in 1960, has donated over \$13 mil-

lion to religious, charitable, scientific, literary and educational organizations, has generously granted \$4,500 over the course of two years, to help underwrite the cost of the programs. Other local sponsors are the Livingston Camera Mart who have provided photo journals, and Jerusalem Pizza who has helped underwrite the cost of the lunch for the culminating program. ♦♦

Two West Orange High School students, participating in JHS' Intergenerational Program, interviewing a Daughter of Israel resident.



## Executive Director's Report

By Linda Forgosh

May is Jewish American Heritage Month. Officially designated in 2006 by President George W. Bush Jewish Heritage Month (JAHM) has now become an annual recognition and celebration of Jewish American contributions to our nation's history, culture, and society. Thus, no Jewish historical society, misses an opportunity to celebrate its own community's contributions to the history of Jewish life, not only here in Greater MetroWest, but also in New Jersey and beyond.

Starting on May 15, 2017, at the Federation campus in Whippany, the JHS will feature an exhibit, titled "Synagogues of Newark: Where we gathered and prayed, studied and celebrated." The exhibit presents information for over 15 synagogues that served as centers of Jewish life in the city during the first half of the 20th century, when the Jewish population of Newark numbered more than 60,000.

The JHS' first foray into documenting Newark's synagogues was initiated by our past-president Warren Grover who gave his son, Owen, a summer job to sit in Newark's Hall of Records to locate information about the city's synagogues. The net result was a comprehensive list of synagogues, their start dates, locations, names of rabbis, and other information. Added to this is the research done by JHS volunteer, David Druce, and Newarkophile Milton Weintraub whose scrapbook titled "Once There was a Synagogue" even includes photographs and newspaper accounts for the city's synagogues.



So the stage was set for when the curators of "Synagogues of Newark," Max Herman and Phil Yourish, showed up in our office looking to do research for the Jewish Museum of New Jersey's exhibit of the same name. They had a field day going through our archives checking the Society's collections ably assisted by our archivist, Jill Hershorin.

Included in this exhibit is the lineage of each of these synagogues, their founders, their rabbis, key events, and the architectural features of the buildings, two slide shows "Jewish in Newark," and "The Rabbis of Newark. A final postscript mentions that several of the buildings that once housed these congregations now serve as Christian houses of worship. Others have been lost to neglect, disrepair, and demolition.

Docent-led tours are available by appointment by contacting either Max Herman at 973-698-8489, Phil Yourish at 973-303-5294, or Linda Forgosh 973-929-2994 whose email is [lforgosh@jfedgmw.org](mailto:lforgosh@jfedgmw.org). ♦♦

## Notes From the Stacks

By Jill Hershorin  
JHSNJ Archivist



Continue to work on the papers belonging to Jackie Levine. This collection spans decades of her work in a variety of social causes and Jewish agencies. Her collection is important so that we can see not only what she achieved personally, but also, the organizations with which she was involved and their goals. In addition, we have added new materials to Warren Grover's collection. This collection now has items from his work in the group Citizens for Charter Change in Essex County and his role as the chair of the West Orange Democratic Committee.

### Research

- We received calls from genealogists who are working on their family histories. Often I send them a list of places to further their research.
- In October a Rabbi from Boulder, Colorado was looking for a sermon by Ely Pilchick. While we have dozens of sermons, the particular one he sought was not in our collections. I was able to find an institution that would have this and sent the information to the Rabbi
- In November a writer for Jewish Education Media was looking for any materials related to the 30-year leadership celebration to honor Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem M. Schneerson. We had a

photo that included Elie Wiesel, Frank Lautenberg and Rabbi Moshe Hershon.

- December we received additions to the Congregation Sinai in Hillside collection from William Greenberg.
- In January we were visited by Nan Greenwald from Congregation Beth Israel in Millburn who came to look for documents related to the purchase of the famous Robert Motherwell tapestry that hangs in the synagogue.

### Other

- The recent exhibit in the showcase near our office is Treasures from the Archive and contain materials from Elvings Yiddish Theater, The Y on High St and the K.U.V.s.
- Please visit our website <http://www.jhs-nj.org/tributes> and click on our new tribute page to make a donation to the JHS or a contribution in someone's honor or remembrance.
- Come to our facebook page where "Every day is Throwback Thursday!" [www.facebook.com/JewishHistoricalSocietyofNJ](http://www.facebook.com/JewishHistoricalSocietyofNJ)

Please feel free to come by and look at any of the collections! There are many wonderful things to see here; often researchers come in looking for something specific and get distracted by other items! Here at the JHS of NJ, we pride ourselves on great customer service. If we cannot find information for a researcher, we provide resources for them to go to.

**Our archive houses fascinating collections from the community for the community!** ♦♦

## Founding Family



Congregation B'nai Israel, Millburn, was founded by the Buncher family, owners of a Millburn hardware store by the same name, as far back as 1920. Descendants Irwin and Judith Buncher of Washington, DC, shown with Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey director Linda Forgosh, left, visited the JHS recently to share pieces of local history. ♦♦

## New Members

Michael Goldberg  
Ilene Dorf Manahan  
Michael Nevins

## Tributes

Jeff Gaier  
*In honor of Ethel & Bob Singer*

Ellen Oxford  
*In honor of Jackie & Howard Levine*

## Donations

Ed Shapiro Trust  
*For Bamberger talk at AABJ&D Temple*

Ellen Cramer  
Jackie Gershman  
Susan & Robert Fuhrman  
*Debode/Gottesman Foundation*

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

The new face(s) of the New Jersey Jewish News

The "Jewish News" was born January 3, 1947. Its editors, Allen Lesser, Harry Weingast, David Frank, David Twersky, and Andrew Silow-Carroll have now passed the torch of documenting the history of our Greater Metro-West Jewish community to a new editor, Gabe Kahn and new managing editor, Shira Vicar-Fox.

Effective September 22, 2016, the New Jersey Jewish News of old is being published by The Jewish Week Media Group of New York, with, according to its editor, Gabe Kahn, "a mandate to retain its strong local flavor, supplemented by regional, national, and international reporting from The Jewish Week." Kahn also acknowledged that "this new version will take some getting used to for



Gabe Kahn, editor



Shira Vicar-Fox, managing editor

longtime readers." What will happen to the seven decades of a newspaper dedicated solely to documenting Jewish life in Greater Metro-West? Fortunately, our own JHS archives has bound copies (1947- 2016) of the original NJJN. However, if there is no political will to preserve our history by finding donors to help defray the costs of digitizing the pages of the paper, it is possible that one day we will awaken to discover that we have "NO HISTORY" to read and nothing to evoke the memories of Jewish life in our own community. For information or interest in helping to preserve the pages of the NJJN contact Linda Forgosh 973-929-2994 or e-mail [lforgosh@jfedgmw.org](mailto:lforgosh@jfedgmw.org). ♦♦