President’s Message

Shana Tova! A happy, healthy and sweet New Year to all. As we look to the autumn months, we have been busy with preparations in support of Federation’s 90th Anniversary Celebration. Our staff, led by Linda Forgosh, the Society’s executive director and curator, has been combing the Society’s archives and working with each of Federation’s 19 agencies to mount an exhibition that will tell the story of a 90-year communal effort to build a better world, both at home and abroad, through good times and bad, and through war and peace. And, what a remarkable story it is! The exhibition opens on October 17th in Whippany. Be sure to stop by and see it.

Our Lasting Impressions Gala held in June honored Max Kleinman for his many accomplishments as he nears retirement after years of devoted service to Federation. It was a very special evening. I am very thankful and grateful for Howie Kiesel’s extraordinary effort in ensuring the success of the Gala. Our own Mali Schwartz prepared an outstanding video presentation that highlighted Max’s personal and professional accomplishments. Warren Grover spoke of Max’s great success as a leader of our Federation. And Max, a student of history and the son of Holocaust survivors, spoke eloquently of the importance of knowing our history and the role of our Society in not only preserving it, but bringing it to life. Upon his retirement, we look forward to his active participation as a Society member.

Last spring, the Society drew a standing room only crowd for a viewing of a movie about the life of Philip Roth upon the occasion of his 80th birthday that brought back Weequahic memories to so many in attendance. At our

Continued on pg. 3
Drench Joins JHS Board

In recent months Barbara has been "wooed" by many community Boards, including our own JHS. She has also agreed to serve on the board of Jewish Family Service of MetroWest where “she is a well-known and well-respected member of the MetroWest community.”

The community is well aware of the work of Barbara and her late husband, Dan. For many years they worked to strengthen the Jewish people all over the world, reinforcing the Jewish community in New Jersey, and strengthening the State of Israel.

We are pleased have her with us as a new Board Member!

Born in Elizabeth NJ, Barbara admits to being a “joiner.” As a youngster she was a Girl Scout, member of B’nai B’rith Girls, joined the Elizabeth “Y,” took flute and piano lessons, and attended Jewish summer camps for girls. She started her Jewish studies at the JEC in Elizabeth studying Talmud Torah with Rabbi Pinchas Teitz.

Barbara went to Hillside High School until her family moved to Florida at which time she graduated from Miami Beach High School. After high school Barbara attended the University of Florida and eventually earned her B.S. from Columbia University in 1963. After graduation she married and had three sons.

Her career includes working as corporate communications manager for Kings Supermarkets, account executive for Gibraltar Securities, and as host and producer of “A Woman’s Place” - a weekly public affairs TV show focusing on issues for and about women.

Her work with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is exemplary. Barbara is a past president of the Essex Section of NCJW. With the NCJW, she has been a chairwoman for The Annual American Art at Mid-Century exhibition and sale, a major fundraising event for the chapter, held multiple roles in event planning and was a the leader of several self-awareness workshops.

Barbara was the recipient of Hannah G. Solomon Award — the highest honor awarded by the NCJW. Additionally, The American Jewish Congress awarded her with a Community Service Award. Israel Bonds bestowed upon her both the Golda Meir Award and the 50th Anniversary Recognition Award. Not bad for a girl who was raised on a chicken farm in Oakhurst, NJ!

In addition, Barbara has served on an endless number of organization boards, including:

1. Women’s Division of Federation as a key organizer in its Major Gifts program; the YM-YWHA, created programs for The United Way, and was an active member of The Women’s Plea for Soviet Jewry ensuring her role as a delegate to the Metro NJ Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Newark’s History Revealed

In August of this year, The Jewish Historical Society hosted Gail Malmgreen and Alix Ross of the Newark History Society’s Archives Project. They have been searching our collections for all materials related to Newark, NJ.

Founded in 2002, the Newark History Society was created to tell the story of Newark and encourage researchers to delve into Newark’s rich history through public forums, lectures, slideshows and other public programs.

One of the major projects of the Newark History Society has been its Archives Project. The goal of this project is to identify and inventory the many sources of printed materials and documents about Newark’s fascinating past. The Newark Archives Project is now undertaking a survey of relevant archival collections located in Newark, in the New Jersey-New York metropolitan area, and ultimately throughout the United States. The result of the work is added to the searchable online database which gives the researcher information about primary source materials related to Newark.

The database is growing by the hundreds of entries already added to it and continues to grow. As of this date, the entries for all of the Newark-related materials found in the Jewish Historical Society’s archive are close to 100. Did you know that there are documents from the Essex County Courthouse dated from 1752 found in our archive? With the help of putting our Newark-related collections on the Newark Archives Project’s database, the audience is that much greater.

Our archive also holds materials from the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (1901– present) which includes the private collection of Dr. Victor Parsonnet; Daughters of Israel Home for the Jewish Aged (1906– present); I.K.U.V. Israel Kranken Untersteutzung Verein (Israel Sick Benefits Society, 1885- 1989) and other vital Newark based documents.

To search the collection descriptions the Project has created to date, go to http://nap.rutgers.edu
Executive Director’s Report

By Linda Forgosh

What’s new? It is a new year with lots to look forward to.
Happy New Year 5774!

What else is new?

This September the JHS renewed its application to remain a “Qualified” organization eligible to apply for grants from The New Jersey Cultural Trust. I learned that the Trust is an arm of the New Jersey Historical Commission a fact that works in our favor as the JHS has a long-standing working relationship with the Commission. Traditionally, the Trust has given grants for preservation of historic sites but now appears to have branched out. We anticipate applying for a specific project grant.

This is an opportunity to mention our successful GOS (General Operating Support) grant from the NJHC in the amount of $6,300. While we would prefer a larger grant, we have been advised that there is an increase in historical societies applying for limited resources. It still does not change the fact that the JHS is the recipient of 20 successful grants from the NJHC.

Newark’s Jewish cemeteries.

We have been asked to participate in generating interest in the preservation of Newark’s Jewish cemeteries. Our archives contain numerous collections regarding Greater MetroWest’s cemeteries and mutual benefit societies. We have provided rare photographs and documentation from our archives to be used in a video being prepared by the CRC’s cemetery committee. Susan Lubow and I took a first-ever guided bus tour of the cemeteries.

We hope that you will notice that the JHS has launched Facebook and Twitter pages. If you need advice on how to access contents call us and ask for JHS archivist Jill Hershorin.

Federation @ 90

What’s ongoing? For more than a year we have been working on a new traveling exhibit titled “Federation @ 90.” Besides being a mammoth undertaking, meaning finding, acquiring, and working with 19 beneficiary agencies, I like to think that our being asked to create this exhibit to mark such a milestone anniversary in the history of Jewish life in Greater MetroWest is a huge vote of confidence for what we do. Much of the credit belongs to the Society’s graphic designer, Marvin Slatkin.

What’s really important? To remember that opening night for “Federation @ 90” is Thursday evening, October 17, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Aidekman JCC in Whippany. Hope to see you there. ♦ ♦

Calendar

October 23 to November 20
“Federation @ 90” Tours
Wednesday afternoons at 1:00
Aidekman Campus
901 Route 10E.
Whippany, NJ
♦ ♦

Volunteer Helps JHSNJ

By Jill Hershorin

Since opening its doors in 1992, the JHS has been the beneficiary of a cadre of loyal volunteers who have donated their time to various tasks, including stuffing envelopes, database input, organizing collections, assisting in exhibitions, and performing research on our slightly ancient microfilm reader.

Among our volunteers none is more welcome than the volunteer who come to us through JESPY House, a multi-purpose agency “dedicated to meeting the needs of adults with learning and developmental disabilities.” JESPY’s clients live independently in private homes centrally located in South Orange.

In March 2013, a new volunteer from JESPY visited the JHS. Jason's love for history attracted him to the JHS. When he first arrived he told us about his collection of 1939 World’s Fair ephemera: “I just love this stuff. I like to think that I am doing my part in preserving these materials.” Further discussion with Jason proved that his research of history is extensive and his knowledge of the railroad companies of the late 19th and early 20th centuries is encyclopedic.

Once we met Jason and spoke with him, we discovered that he would make for a great fit at the JHS, not only for his love for history, but for his experience with scanning materials and an understanding of how archives work. Jason is helping the JHS with organizing collections, scanning photographs and documents, filing papers and working with other archival needs. Having Jason at the office every week is a refreshing addition to our team. ♦ ♦

President’s Message Continued from pg.1

annual meeting in June, we enjoyed listening to a presentation by Charlie Bernhaut who presented classic Jewish comedy recordings from the Borsch Belt, radio days and television, that had the audience roaring with laughter.

The Society’s outreach into the community continued with the third annual intergenerational oral history project led by Mali Schwartz and Marc Shapiro that brought together dozens of West Orange High School students and seniors at the Daughters of Israel. The students met with the seniors on five occasions throughout the school year and then conducted the seniors’ oral histories. The program was a great success and both the students and the seniors benefited from this intergenerational dialogue.

The Board welcomes Barbara Drench as its newest member. While new to the Board, Barbara has been a long time supporter of the Society, actively participating with her late husband Dan, of blessed memory, who was an active member of our Board as well as a community leader for many years.

With final preparations for the 90th Anniversary Celebration underway, and the development of our public programming moving forward, we look to a busy and exciting time in the next few months. Be sure to visit our website to learn more about our many activities. And, as the end of the year approaches, please be sure to renew your Society membership. We need your financial help and support if we are to continue our mission into the future.

Robert G. Rose, President
With its continuing effort to spread its message and seek new audiences, the JHS proudly announces the launch of both a Facebook page and Twitter handle. Each began preliminary testing in September and will launch live this fall. Social media users will now be able to follow JHS announcements and events through Facebook and Twitter. By “liking” and “following” via these respective mediums, followers will be able to attract interest within their respective social networks. For example, those who follow existing Facebook pages and Twitter handles of the Jewish Daily Forward, AIPAC or other historical societies will be directed to JHS. JHS will also be able to promote upcoming events or share information with its membership and followers in an easy and rapid fashion. Each of JHS’s staff members will also have links to JHS’s respective Facebook and Twitter pages at the bottom of their email signatures. Information that will be made available through Facebook and Twitter will complement JHS’s already informative and comprehensive internet website.

You can find our page on Facebook (Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey) and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/JHSofNJ.

New Members

We wish to welcome the following new members as of September 30, 2013!

Natalie Garnell
Jacqueline and Mort Gershman
Aaron Gerson
Toby Goldberger
Miller Hickman
Cynthia Kramer
Bernice Manshel
Reference work at the JHS occurs on a consistent basis. Whether it is a phone call from a family member looking for information about a relative or a student using our materials for scholarly research, we see all walks of life enter our office. In August, we hosted two separate visitors for research.

**JHSNJ Archives Assist Two Area Congregations**

Hillary Chorny, the cantor for White Meadow Temple in Rockaway, NJ came to us because they are composing a new Friday evening prayerbook that will also serve as a scrapbook for White Meadow’s 60-year history. By examining the extensive collection (8 cubic feet of material, 1955-2002), Hillary was able to spend time reviewing the documents and photographs and discovered a wonderful history that helped her with the project!

Mike Stepak, Congregation President of Adath Shalom in Morris Plains came to us looking for something to add to their Silver Anniversary Gala, which will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the merger of Congregation Adath Israel of Dover and Temple Beth Shalom of Boonton. He discovered within the 77 years of history that we have in our archive, a VHS tape of the Torah march and dedication service of the then new Synagogue in 1995. We have converted the VHS tape into a digital format and Mike will be able to use parts of this wonderful ceremony to highlight the meaningful event.

Our collections continue to be used for vital projects within our community and beyond. With the descriptions of the collections on our website, on WorldCat and the Newark History Society’s Archive Project database, we will continue to further attract audiences! ✭✭

**Other**

I have worked on several projects in addition to the processing of collections. These projects include: Arrangement of archives in chronological order, performed annual inventory; assistance to NJ Jewish News locating and scanning an image for an article; continuation of sending batches of finding aids to the Library of Congress for addition to OCLC; located documents from the Ben Perlmutter Collection for a Federation Executive and helped to create a JHS History timeline. ✭✭

---

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 and Mark Fien, children of the Society's founders, Ruth and Jerome Fien.
To the leaders of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, Max Kleinman is “the ideal recipient” of its 2013 Lasting Impressions Award.

The executive vice president/CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ “is an educated historian and has always been a strong supporter of the Jewish Historical Society and a believer in the need to record our Jewish history for generations to come,” said Howard Kiesel of Short Hills, the immediate past president of JHS.

“More than most, Max understands and appreciates the efforts of the Jewish Historical Society’s role in preserving the history of Greater MetroWest for future generations,” said Linda Forgosh, the society’s executive director.

The award will be presented to Kleinman at a dinner Thursday, June 27, at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston.

Although he feels “privileged to be honored,” Kleinman said, he did impose one condition on the society before agreeing to the award.

“I said I would accept the honor on the condition that it be used as a kickoff for the federation’s 90th anniversary, because the JHS is preparing a major exhibit on the federation’s history.”

The exhibit, “Federation @ 90,” pegged to the 1923 founding by Newark Jewish leaders of the Conference of Jewish Charities, will go on display at the Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus in Whippany next October.

Kleinman has been part of that history for 17 years, having previously served as executive director of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and in senior positions in federations based in Atlanta and Milwaukee.

But before he received a master’s degree in social work as a prelude to his career in Jewish communal service, Kleinman was a history major at City College of New York and a graduate student at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

He wrote a master’s thesis on Christian Socialism in America, “based on my interest in Marxism, communism, and socialism,” Kleinman told NJ Jewish News. He completed his doctoral course work and several chapters of a dissertation titled “Portal to the Middle Class: The Jews of City College of New York, 1880-1940.”

“I wanted to go into academia, but there were no jobs,” he explained. “I got recruited to go into the federation field, but I still keep my love of history with me. When I write blogs or speeches I use history to give some context to the subjects I’m discussing. Without that you are basically looking at today’s headlines, but history gives you the perspective of the past and the big picture about where we are heading, because human nature does not change.”

History will definitely play a part in his life when he retires, Kleinman said. “I will want to do other things, but I plan to study history and maybe do some more teaching.”

The federation leader said he has “absolutely no regrets about the path I chose. With history you study what people did. In this job, we do.”

***

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