Daniel Drench, one of the founding members of this Society, has passed away. His support, wisdom and energy have been instrumental in the success of our Society. He was truly a giant among giants. We will remember Dan for his many contributions to our community. He will be missed by all.

Your Society has been busy on many fronts. First and foremost is the Lasting Impressions Gala that will honor Max Kleinman who will be retiring after an incredibly successful run as our Federation’s chief executive. If you haven’t already become a supporter of this event, please add your name to the growing list of those who will attend this wonderful event on June 27th at the Crystal Plaza.

Did you know that our Federation will be celebrating its 90th anniversary? Founded in Newark in 1923, our archives are rich with its history. Linda Forgosh, our Executive Director and curator has drawn on those archives and is collecting additional materials from a number of Federation’s agencies in organizing an exhibition that will tell the story of Federation’s 90 years of history in support of our Jewish community.

In bringing “living” history to the community, I hope that many of you had the opportunity of attending one of the two sold-out performances of the film biography of Philip Roth that the Society conducted last month. We are currently planning additional programs and intend to put on a special event at our annual meeting in June. Stay tuned!

Finally, if you haven’t paid your dues, please take the time to send in a check and consider increasing your annual contribution. Your dues are vital to the Society’s continued success.

Robert G. Rose
President

JHSNJ to Honor Max Kleinman Federation CEO

WHIPPANY. Robert G. Rose, Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey president, announced that the society will be awarding its 2013 Lasting Impressions Award to Max L. Kleinman, Executive Vice President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ at its annual gala to be held on June 27, 2013 at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston. “We are so pleased that Max has allowed us to bestow this honor upon him in celebration of the federation’s 90th anniversary. He has been an outstanding supporter of the society ever since he joined our Federation. We are excited about the support we have received from members of our community who stepped forward to participate in this event,” stated Bob Rose.

18 years with MetroWest

Max Kleinman has had an extraordinary career serving our community for the past 18 years, first as executive vice president of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest for 17 years, and more recently, as CEO of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ. He previously served as executive director of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and held senior positions in federations based in Atlanta and Milwaukee. He is a past president of the Jewish Communal Service Association of North America and World Council of Jewish Communal Service. He has also served on the Advisory Board of Rutgers University’s Center on Non-Profit Governance and Management and on the New Jersey-Israel Commission.


He is married to Gail Kleinman, a psychotherapist, and has two children and two grandchildren.

Join us at the Gala

Anyone interested in supporting the gala can call Irene Segal at 973-929-2703 (isegal@jhsmw.org) or Howard Kiesel, Event Chair, at 973-564-6466 (hkie- sel424@verizon.net)
JHS Adds Two To Its Board

Snyder and Strulowitz To Assume Committee Heads

Bob Rose, JHS president, announced the appointment of Matthew Snyder and Dr. Leonard Strulowitz to the society’s Board of Trustees. He stated, “We are so pleased to add these two outstanding individuals to our board. Each brings with him unique abilities which will further the cause of the historical society and it’s very important work for the community. Snyder will head the public relations committee including publicity, editing the Society’s newsletter, producing the online “Jottings” and bringing us into the 21st century with social networking through Facebook, etc. Strulowitz will assume the chair of our membership committee, so important in recruiting and retaining members, so vital to the society.”

Matthew Snyder

Matthew, 38, returned to his native Morris County in 2011 after living in Connecticut and New York City for many years. He is a CPA and a Vice President at Cinedigm Digital Cinema Corp. in New York. Since moving to Randolph with his wife Beth Rotenberg in 2011, where they are members of Adath Shalom in Morris Plains, Matthew has become involved with The Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

Graduate of MetroWest’s YLD

In 2012, he completed the Arthur Borinsky Young Leadership Development Program and recently served in the Young Leadership Division. Additionally, Matthew volunteers his time with the Mt. Sinai Cemetery in Dover.

Matt graduated from Bryant University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and earned a Masters of Science in Finance at Baruch College in 2007. He enjoys spending time reading, following the New York Yankees, Knicks and Jets, and joining his wife supporting various charities in the greater New York/New Jersey area.

Dr. Leonard Strulowitz

Dr. Strulowitz founded Congregation Israel in Springfield and conducted the services in his home for the first year. He was the founding president for ten years and now serves as president emeritus.

JHS to Mount Exhibit Celebrating Federation’s 90th Anniversary

A new traveling exhibition titled “Federation @ 90” will open in October at the Aidekman Jewish Community Campus in Whippany. The exhibit which is the result of a year-long gathering of photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia and video clips from Federation’s 19 beneficiary agencies also will include items preserved in the Society’s archives. Original items, too precious to leave to chance, will be placed in locked showcases. Each tells Federation’s story. The dates for the Whippany showing are October 2 through November 22, 2013. Other venues will include the JCC in West Orange, the JCC in Scotch Plains, and the “Y” on Green Lane in Union. Dates for these locations are to be determined.

Nineteen agencies on display

The exhibit will have 19 separate agency “histories” on display. Agencies are focusing on their “top ten” accomplishments and have provided photos to complement their history. Chances are you will know many of the individuals who are featured in the exhibit. In addition, there will be a unique opportunity to listen to radio broadcasts made by the JEC’s late Rabbi Pinchas Teitz. The overall chairman of Springfield’s Celebration of Israel’s Anniversary. He served as treasurer of the Springfield Jewish community. He participated in several optometric and community help projects and was a Rutgers University Hotline volunteer.

Len is a Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry. His practice of 45 years was limited to the fitting of contact lenses. He has published numerous articles in professional journals related to contact lenses and has lectured extensively at several national and international contact lens congresses.

He is the recipient of the Man of the Year Awards from Congregation Israel, Young Israel, Chancellor Synagogue of Newark, National Council of Synagogue Youth and most recently, Man of the Year from the Bradley Beach synagogue.

Active in Springfield

He served as chairman of the Optometric Division of UJA/Federation, Israel Bonds and the radio station’s console comes from Daughters of Israel. With a little luck we will be able to use the console to play old vinyl records or do your own broadcast. If you have a favorite album on a vinyl record, Jewish music of course, let us know.

There will be a “wall” of agency publications where you can pick the brochure of your choice and add your name to a sign-in sheet if you have an interest in volunteering for one of the exhibiting agencies.

Eleven name changes

It is hard to think back to November 16, 1923, the year the first federation was incorporated. It was originally known as the Conference of Jewish Charities. Eleven changes of name and three mergers later, in the years 1972, 1983, and 2012, we are now the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ covering Essex, Morris, Union, Sussex and parts of Somerset counties. It is remarkable history and worth the effort to attend the opening reception and to make arrangements to take a tour of the exhibit. Dates and times for tours will be posted in future publicity. ✿✿

Continued on page 6
Daniel Drench, a founding and continuing board member of the Jewish Historical Society until his death, passed away peacefully on April 5, 2013. He was 91 years old. A memorial service was held at Temple B’nai Abraham in Livingston attended by many hundreds of people from the Jewish community. Dan graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in Bronx, NY in 1938 and the City College of New York in 1943 before receiving his master’s in economics from NYU in 1948. After a short stint as a teacher, Dan founded Artisan Electronics Corporation, based in Parsippany, N.J.; he served as chief executive officer from 1950 until 1986, when he sold the company. Dan served in World War II (1943 to 1945) with the 104th Infantry Division, which helped to turn the tide in the Battle of the Bulge and proudly liberated the Nordhausen labor camp in Germany. He was a leader in the Jewish communities of Morris and Essex counties, serving as president of the Morris-Sussex Federation, the Jewish Community Foundation, and MetroWest JCC.

Former POA president at White Meadow Lake
Dan was president of the White Meadow Property Owners Association and the Rockaway Lions Club, and a member of many boards and committees. In addition to his leadership positions within the Jewish community, Dan endowed programs, including the Madeline Drench Special Needs Fund at the JCC, the Madeline Drench Memorial Lecture at White Meadow Temple, the Dan & Barbara Drench After School Kids Club at the JCC, and the Rose & Isidore Drench Research Fellowship at YIVO. Dan and his wife, Barbara, held dual US-Israeli citizenship, residing in Jerusalem and later Tel Aviv for a number of months each year, and built a strong bond with the Israeli community during their many years there. He was a great mentor and friend, a true mensch who always treated people with the utmost respect. Dan was predeceased by his first wife, Madeline, in 1991. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Levy Drench; his son, Peter Drench (Anne Ferguson); his daughter, Dr. Meredith Drench (Paula Hurd.) He also is survived by many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Joseph Posner lives in South Orange.

This postcard from Lake Hiawatha, in Morris County, is one of hundreds of postcards found in the archives of the Jewish Historical Society. The lakefront pavilion featured social events including an annual bathing suit beauty contest.
Executive Director’s Report

By Linda Forgosh

What do Philip Roth, the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, “Dolls for Democracy,” the exhibit “Federation @ 90,” a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a regional celebration in Scotch Plains, nineteen beneficiary agencies, a tour of Elizabeth, Mitzvot of MetroWest, the Diller teens and a tour of Jewish Newark, a JESPY volunteer, feature stories in the New Jersey Jewish News, Weequahic Park, an exhibit at the New Jersey Jewish Museum, and 102 research questions have in common? Each represents my current activities as the Society’s executive director.

Check us out

As JHS members you are encouraged to “check out” the Society’s website www.jhsmw.org. Our presence on the internet attracts researchers to our archives which led to the story of how the JHS became a major contributor to the recent documentary “Out of Newark: The Life and Times of Philip Roth.” At the end of 2012 a filmmaker named Jane Statlander called me to inquire about items in our archives that featured Roth. “This was the start of a beautiful romance.” (Humphrey Bogart in “Casablanca.”) We scanned and sent photograph after photograph, film clip after film clip, and agreed to sponsor a premiere showing of “Out of Newark” at the JCC in Whippany. The poster that generated so much interest was designed by Marvin Slatkin and the feature story in the “Jewish News” was a plus.

New collections from the merger

On July 1, 2012 there was a merger between the former Central Federation of New Jersey and the United Jewish Communities of MetroWest. This merger changed the Society’s mission statement as we now must find room in our archives for the history of Jewish life in Union County. For newer members the JHS also documents the history of Jews in Essex, Morris, and Sussex counties. A day spent touring Elizabeth was a real treat, a night at a regional celebration in Scotch Plains, and visits to our archives by heads of Union County’s Jewish institutions and agencies have convinced individuals to donate their collections to the JHS for long term preservation.

Looking ahead, the JHS has reserved October 2, 2013 as the date for an opening reception and preview of an exhibit titled “Federation @ 90” (see article).

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our Lasting Impressions gala on June 27th.

All the best,

Linda Forgosh

Kiesel Publishes Memoir

Howard Kiesel, immediate past president of JHSNJ, recently published an autobiography titled “A Kid From Hillside” which tells of growing up at a simpler time—when ice boxes adorned families’ pantries, when radios and single-screen movie theaters were family entertainment, when stick ball and stoop ball were the games played on the street. It’s a story of love and marriage, and the trials and tribulations that go along with raising a family in suburbia.

The book is available at Amazon.com, priced at $9.95.

Calendar

May 23, 2013 at 6:30pm
Federation Annual Meeting*
“JHS Presents Federation History”

June 10, 2013 @ 7:00pm
JHSNJ Annual Meeting*
“Presenting Jews and Comedy”

June 27, 2013 @ 6:15 pm
JHS Gala Honoring Max Kleinman
At Crystal Plaza, Livingston, NJ

Oct.2 to Nov.22
Opening of Exhibit*
“Federation @ 90”

*Events at Aidekman Campus
901 Route 10E. Whippany, NJ

This bus was used by the Yeshiva of Newark to transport students to and from the school located on Clinton Avenue in Newark, circa 1940. The photo is an example of the hundreds of photos and memorabilia kept in the Jewish Historical Society archives in Whippany. Any JHSNJ member can have a personal tour of the archives by calling Jill Hershorn @973-929-2995 for an appointment.
I continue to arrange and write descriptions in our database from a wonderful array of collections from our community.

Collections

New material has been added to the following collections:

- Oheb Shalom - Newark Beth Israel
- Medical Center - Temple Shalom of Succasuna
- B’nai Israel of Millburn
- NJACJS - Barbara Drench Collection
- Jacob “Jerry” Lehman - Jewish Historical Society (donated by Howard Kiesel)

Please feel free to come by and look at any of the processed collections! Our archive houses fascinating collections from the community for the community.

Research

Several researchers have visited the archives with interest in the following topics and collections:

- Victor Parsonnet Collection - Newark
- related documents - Weequahic High School yearbook research - Jewish migration to the suburbs

New Accessions

A few new accessions have come our way. The following is a partial list of some of the items:

- Jackie Gershman - Jewish Family Service of Central NJ
- Ruth Lebau-Brewster - Harry Lebau papers; family documents
- Nathan Kupperman - I.O.B.A. Certificate
- Congregation B’nai Jeshurun materials
- Jewish Federation of Central NJ - Board and Executive Minutes, 1962-1999
- Jewish Federation of Central NJ - Scrapbooks, 1976-2010
- Lois Kaish - Approximately 50 Handmade “Dolls for Democracy”

Notes From the Stacks

By Jill Hershorin
JHS Archivist

I continue to arrange and write descriptions in our database from a wonderful array of collections from our community.

In recent years the Federation’s Israel Program Center arranged to host a delegation of Israeli teens that spend several weeks living and touring sites in greater MetroWest to strengthen the relationship between Israel and MetroWest. The program is known as the Diller Teens. This is the second year that the JHS was asked to provide a speaker for a tour of Jewish Newark. We view the request as a welcome opportunity to make the history in our archives relevant to a younger generation.

The day was memorable on two levels. The first was the tour. The second was the portion of the day spent volunteering at a soup kitchen and food pantry located in downtown Newark. Both activities were typical of Federation’s dedication to community service and worthy of mention as we prepare our upcoming exhibit, “Federation @ 90.”

The assembly line of Diller Teens plus JHS executive director, Linda Forgosh, (fourth from the left) serving up meals at Newark’s soup kitchen.

Above: youngsters attending “Mitzvot of MetroWest” checked out the Society’s newest collection known as “Dolls for Democracy.”
Dr. Strulowitz has served as President of the New Jersey Academy of Optometry and now serves on its Board of Trustees. He served as President of the State Board of Optometry, a division of the Consumer Affairs Department. He has been an investigator for several studies determining the efficacy of contact lenses seeking FDA approval and is the inventor of several contact lens designs.

A nationally recognized authority on contact lenses, he has appeared on radio and television. He has been quoted in numerous national magazines, newspapers and professional journals. His article on the treatment and management of G.P.C. earned him the Scientific Achievement Award. He is the recipient of several awards including the highest award given to an optometrist by the New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, Sandi. They reside in Springfield. They have four children, all conveniently residing nearby in New Jersey. ✪ ✪

Notes From the Stacks, continued from page 5

Other

The “What’s Old” exhibit was displayed in the atrium using treasures that are housed in the archive, including an array of wonderful photographs and including some correspondence by US Presidents to members of our community! In addition, we are pleased to announce that we have taken on a new volunteer who is a resident of JESPY House. Finally, our “Dolls for Democracy” exhibit and contest was wonderful. We showcased 28 dolls in our display cases and had many people stop and comment. ✪ ✪

JOIN OUR BOARD

If you would really enjoy learning more about the history of our community, please consider joining our Board. Whether it be collecting oral histories, working with our archival collection, assisting in the preparation of exhibits, developing public programs, as well as membership and events planning, please join us! For further information contact our president, Bob Rose at 973-966-8070; rrose@daypitney.com

OFFICERS
Robert G. Rose, President
Carol Marcus, Vice President
Roger Manshel, Vice President
Martin Bearg, Secretary
Robert Cowen, Jr., Financial Secretary
Alfred Mahler, Treasurer
Arthur Brody, V.P. Emeritus
Norbert Gaelen, V.P. Emeritus
Howard Kiesel, Past President
Dr. Jerome M. Horowitz, Past President
Robert Max, Past President
Warren Grover, Past President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Hal Braff
Jane Eisenstat
Thelma Florin
Martin Fox
Sanford Hollander
Rabbi Shalom D. Lubin
Susan Lubow
Kelly Marx
Dr. Victor Parsonnet
Jean Rich
Marc Shapiro
David Scheckner
Mali Schwartz
Robert Singer
Matthew Snyder
Dr. Leonard Strulowitz
Linda Willner

Other

The “What’s Old” exhibit was displayed in the atrium using treasures that are housed in the archive, including an array of wonderful photographs and including some correspondence by US Presidents to members of our community! In addition, we are pleased to announce that we have taken on a new volunteer who is a resident of JESPY House. Finally, our “Dolls for Democracy” exhibit and contest was wonderful. We showcased 28 dolls in our display cases and had many people stop and comment. ✪ ✪