President’s Message

The Society continues the celebration of its 25th Anniversary year this fall with an outstanding schedule of public programs and exhibits. At a time when the issues of Jewish identity and continuity are a matter of great concern, the Society is committed to preserve the rich history of our community and to make it available to future generations. Your continued support helps insure that our community’s history is not only preserved for our children and grandchildren, but most important, that the fabric of our Jewish experience is brought to life through our public programming and exhibitions. A full schedule of events is included in this newsletter. Please make your calendars and come out for these events. Bring your family and help them learn of our community’s vibrant history.

Take a look at our website, www.jhs-nj.org, and the wealth of information that is literally at your fingertips! Our growing presence on the social network links of Facebook and Twitter brings us to a younger generation, all of which keep the Society in the public spotlight and doing what it does best – outreach to the community.

We are especially pleased that our Federation’s former executive director, Max Kleinman, has joined our Board as its newest member. A student of history, as well as his unmatched knowledge of the community developed during his nineteen year tenure in its service, will bring to the Society his considerable talent and extensive experience in support of its mission.

I wish to thank all of our donors for their continued support that made last spring’s Lasting Impressions Gala, honoring the Society’s former president, Howard Kiesel, such a great success.

Society Presenting Dore Schary Program on November 1st

Film Expert, Eric Goldman, To Speak

If you love movies, particularly vintage movies made during the golden era of Hollywood, you should put November 1st on your calendar and plan to attend the JHS program “Sunday with Schary,” at 2:30 p.m. at the Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Campus in Whippany.

Not familiar with the Schary name? Film aficionados know that film legend, Dore Schary, was a noted director, screenwriter, Oscar winner, and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright who is best remembered as executive producer at MGM (Metro Goldwyn Mayer) movie studios (1948-1956) responsible for 250 movies made on his watch. What makes him a perfect subject for the JHS is his connection to the history of Jewish life in Greater MetroWest New Jersey. He was born in 1905 in Newark and began his writing, stage, and movie career at the YM-YWHA in Newark - that is, when he wasn’t waiting tables in his parent’s catering hall, the popular Schary Manor.

The early years

Schary wasn’t always a successful writer. In his teens he did stints as a necktie and china salesman in a local Newark department store (perhaps L. Bamberger & Co.) worked as a proof reader for a printing company, and wrote feature stories for Newark’s newspapers. What made this unusual was the fact that he was expelled from high school at age 14. When he realized that he wasn’t equipped to write professionally he went back to high school at the age of 19 and got his diploma. In the crowded years that followed, Dore directed plays throughout New Jersey and worked on newspaper publicity for Admiral Byrd’s lecture tour.

Dore recalled his life and times growing up in Newark in his autobiography “For Special Occasions.” There are sufficient numbers of MetroWest residents whose roots are in Newark who would enjoy Schary’s very human, laugh-out-loud stories, including his account of two rival gangs whose children got married at Schary Manor. You could dress the gangsters in white tie and tails, but the fact that each was carrying a gun was difficult to conceal. A fight broke out after which the two fathers agreed to make amends by each one giving $10,000 to the residents at Daughters of Israel Home for the Aged.

Somewhere amid this variety of odd jobs, he met his wife Miriam Svet. A few months after they were married, someone at the Columbia Studios read his “One Every Minute,” and thinking Dore Schary was a woman, reported that “Miss Schary’s” work showed a deliberate attempt to explore themes of social justice; Schary’s movies, with their deliberate attempt to explore themes of social justice were ahead of their time. For instance, “Crossfire,” ( not “Gentleman’s Agreement”) was the first American film to touch on the subject of anti-Semitism;
Executive Director’s Report
By Linda Forgosh

“The Poet and the Pol”

This is a short version of how the Jewish Historical Society became the owner of the personal papers of beat generation poet, Allen Ginsberg, and his equally famous father, Louis Ginsberg, who was also a prominent poet.

My story begins in December of 2013. It was Super Sunday and I was standing in the Atrium of the Whippany JCC when I overheard Essex County Freeholder, Pat Sebold, tell a friend that Allen Ginsberg was her first cousin. I asked her to repeat what she just said and then asked if she would be willing to let me see her collection of Ginsberg papers and photographs. She said “sure” but asked me to wait until she could retrieve them from the cardboard boxes that were left over from her recent move. Nothing happened. In fact, I met Pat the following year at Super Sunday 2014, and still was asked to wait until she could get to it. I refused to become discouraged and continued to send gentle e-mail reminders periodically to remind her of her promise to show me her Ginsberg papers.

Sebold comes through

Well, persistence paid off. On May 26, 2015, at the Society’s annual Lasting Impressions gala honoring our past-president Howard Kiesel, Pat approached me and asked if I was still interested in her Ginsberg papers. It took a week, just long enough for me to enlist Jewish News reporter, Robert Wiener, to keep me company to do an inter-

view with Pat and her husband, Burt Sebold. Wiener’s story, “The Poet and the Pol,” is in the New Jersey Jewish News (July 9, 2015). I am reading every poem, every letter, every caption, and savoring the idea that the social phenomenon known as the beat generation has its roots in New Jersey. That Allen Ginsberg was born at Newark Beth Israel Hospital makes the story sweeter.

Other good news

We will start the New Year on an upbeat note having just received notification from the State of New Jersey that we are the recipients of a general operating support grant (GOS) from the New Jersey Historical Commission. The Society has also been invited to submit copies of our newsletter and membership application to a genealogical conference being hosted in Syracuse, New York. We encourage our members to read the New Jersey Jewish News as we have regular publicity in all five editions of this newspaper and to check the Society’s website (www.jhs-nj.org) which now has a “Tributes” page whereby a donation in the memory or in honor of an individual or institution can be made online. Lastly, I wish you and yours a sweet, happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. ��

President’ Message Continued from pg.1

success. The Society extends it thanks and appreciation to Mark Fien and Judy Fien-Helfman for their generous donation in memory of their parents, Society founders Ruth and Jerry Fien, 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, Rubi and Jerome Fien.

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 and Mark Fien, children of the Society’s founders, Ruth and Jerome Fien.
Max Kleinman, Former Federation CEO Joins JHSNJ Board

WHIPPANY. Robert G. Rose, Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey president, announced the election of Max L. Kleinman, former Executive Vice President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ to the Society’s board of trustees at the Annual Membership Meeting held in June. “I am so pleased that Max has agreed to join us, on this, our 25th anniversary. He has been an outstanding supporter of the society ever since he joined our Federation”, stated Rose.

Career Jewish Leader

Max Kleinman has had an extraordinary career serving our community for the past 20 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.

Max Kleinman

When interviewed recently, Max stated, “I’m so proud to join the board of trustees of this very important Federation agency. I studied history as part of my academic career for a number of years. So history and the Jewish community are two of the most important values that I treasure. Our Jewish history provides context for the decisions we make.”

Outstanding Education in History

A recipient of bachelor’s and master’s degrees in History from the City College of New York and a master’s degree in Social Work from Yeshiva University as a FEREP recipient, Max has studied at New York University’s Wagner School of Public Administration. He also did doctoral work in history at SUNY-Buffalo and was a Fellow at the Center for Social Innovation at Stanford Business School.

Published author


He and his wife, Gail, a psychotherapist, live in West Orange and have two children and two grandchildren. ★★

Jill Schary Talks About Dore Schary

Jill Schary, who is the author of ten novels, founder of the Wimpole Writers – a writing workshop based in Los Angeles — and a regular blogger for the Huffington Post, accepted our invitation to speak about her father’s legendary career in Hollywood and her family’s life in Newark. She did this via a video sent to us from her home in Los Angeles. The video will be “center stage” in the JHS exhibit “Dore Schary: From Newark to Hollywood” opening at the JCC in Whippany on October 12 and running through November 11.

Jill claims that she inherited her love of writing from her father, Dore Schary, who wrote the Academy Award winning script for the movie “Boys Town,” and the script for the enormously successful play, “Sunrise at Campobello” for which he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize. Interestingly, Schary wrote about Franklin Roosevelt’s battle with polio, which is the subject of his play “Sunrise at Campobello,” while he and his wife, Miriam Svet, were living in Portofino, Italy. He also wrote all his scripts by hand on a yellow legal pad, something that Jill adopted when she began her career as a writer.

According to Jill, Dore Schary was the only screenwriter to ever run a major Hollywood movie studio. His tenure at MGM was from 1948-1958. His “ability to be a good listener,” made him a favorite of Hollywood’s leading stars.

Dore fought for what he believed in… his concern for exposing anti-Semitism in America surfaced in his movie “Crossfire”; his appearance before the House on un-American activities where he defended his fellow screen writers who were placed on a “blacklist” of writers tagged as communist sympathizers; and then, after he left Hollywood to live in New York City, where he became head of the Anti-Defamation League. We are amused by the a story told by Jill of someone wanting to get in touch with Schary who wrote a letter and addressed it to the “HEAD JEW”, New York City. Apparently the letter reached him as Jill is seen holding that letter in her video!!

Jill’s final comment about Dore was, “In Hollywood you could be a ‘star’ or a ‘healer’, but he managed to be both of those things.” ★★
JHS to Show “Battleground” Film on Veterans’ Day

To commemorate Veteran’s Day, on November 11, 2015 – at 7:00 p.m. -- the Society will present the film, “Battleground”, produced by legendary film-maker, Newark-born Dore Schary, (See story on page 1) at the Alex Aidekman Campus, 901 Route 10, Whippany. “Battleground” is a 1949 American war film that follows a company in the 101st Airborne Division as they cope with the Siege of Bastogne” during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. The film is notable for portraying American soldiers as vulnerable and human. “Battleground” is considered to be the first significant American film about World War II to be made and released after the end of the war.

The film will be introduced by Robert (Bob) Max, past president of JHS, who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was captured by the Germans and forced into slave labor until he finally escaped captivity. He will speak of his experiences.

Admission is FREE.
For information contact Linda Forgosh: 973-929-2994 or e-mail: lforgosh@jfedgmw.org

Warren Grover to Speak at Congregation AABJ&D

Synagogue celebrates 50th Anniversary In 3-part series co-sponsored by JHSNJ

By Mali Schwartz

Warren Grover, well-known author of the acclaimed book “Nazis in Newark,” will give the first lecture in a three-part Jewish History series on Wednesday, November 4th at 7:30 pm at Congregation Abawas Achim B’nai Jacob and David in West Orange about the origins of Newark’s Jewish community.

As the first speaker of the series, co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society, Warren will discuss German migration and the institutions they created; the influx of Eastern European Jews beginning in the 1880’s; conflicts between German Jews and Eastern European Jews; the early synagogues in Newark; and what happened to the synagogues when most Jews left Newark.

Mali Schwartz, who has organized this lecture series to help celebrate the 50th year anniversary of Congregation AABJ&D (also known as the alphabet shul) stated, “I delved into my synagogue’s history and discovered that B’nai David was interested in merging with them. After many nights of negotiations, these two synagogues finally merged in March 1966.

The original Congregation Abawas Achim B’nai Jacob’s illustrious history began when Abawas Achim Anshe Warsbe (Warsaw) was founded in 1886, established by Polish immigrants in the Central Ward of Newark. Gradually, the Jews of Newark grew in affluence, and many moved to the South Ward neighborhoods of Weequahic which were less industrialized neighborhoods.

By the 1930s, the leaders of Anshe Warsbe were aware of this growing trend and realized the opportunity of merging with Anshe Lemberg B’nai Jacob, located in the Weequahic section of Newark. Created in 1903, Anshe Lemberg B’nai Jacob was originally located on Barclay Street in Newark’s Central Ward until 1931, when it took over an imposing building on Avon Avenue, previously occupied by Congregation Tzemach Tzedek.

Tzemach Tzedek had been founded in the 1920s. Unfortunately, Tzemach Tzedek experienced insurmountable financial difficulties because of the Great Depression and was unable to maintain the Avon Avenue property. Shortly before the outbreak of WWII, Tzemach Tzedek,
More than 120 guests attended the 2015 JHS Lasting Impressions Gala to honor Howard Kiesel, immediate past president of the society. Attendees enjoyed a dinner buffet at Crystal Plaza as well as the program that followed.

A tribute video was shown entitled “A Kid From Hillside”, produced by JHS Executive Director, Linda Forgosh, dealing with Kiesel’s many communal and professional achievements. Shown here are just some of the attendees.

Kiesel Honored at May Lasting Impressions Gala
Ten new collections that have been added to the JHS archives:

- Documents, photographs, and letters of poet, Allen Ginsberg from Pat Sebold
- “Historic Newark,” published in 1916 and “JEA Celebrates 50 Years” from Dr. Noah Chivian
- Souvenir journals of the Suburban Jewish School and Jewish Cultural School and Society (1973-2012) from Paula Borenstein
- Recollections of Newark’s Children’s Jewish Home written by David Earlbaum from Morris Ginsberg
- Scrapbook with photographs and newspaper articles for Federation Past-President Sidney Leiwant from Amy Jayson
- Scrapbook with newspaper articles for concert pianist Arthur Klein from Anita Straussburg
- Synagogues of Union County collections from Josh Hamerman
- Photographs of wedding held at Temple B’nai Abraham and announcement from Newark Beth Israel Hospital from Ruth Lerner Smith
- South Side High School Reunion photos, class photo of B’nai Jeshurun from Marcia Brous
- Handwritten minutes ledger from Newark’s Progress Club (1908-1915) from Andrew Weil

Reference work at the JHS is ongoing. We receive weekly inquiries from genealogists frequently searching for obituaries published in the New Jersey Jewish News (hard copies of the NJJN are in bound volumes that are kept in the JHS archives).

Researchers from all over the world have access to approximately 640 collections housed in the JHS archives either through on-site visits, telephone, or online through the Society’s website www.jhs-nj.org.

More recently, Judith Pilchik-Zucker contacted us for information about a cantata written by her father, Temple B’nai Jeshurun’s Rabbi Ely Pilchick. The rabbi’s papers were given to the American Jewish Archive at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. However, the cantata Judy wanted was not there. Instead, it was JHS archivist, Jill Hershorin, who found the manuscript for the aforementioned cantata. It was safe and sound right here in Whippany.

All are invited to follow the JHS on Facebook where “every day is Throwback Thursday!”

www.facebook.com/JewishHistoricalSocietyofNJ

By Jill Hershorin

JHS Archivist

HISTORY DONATION

Amy Jayson (right) recently donated a scrapbook containing photographs of historic figures such as Presidents Jimmy Carter and Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Israeli Prime Ministers Golda Meir, Menachem Begin, and Yitzhak Rabin. Also in the collection are documents that represent the major role Jayson’s father, Sidney E. Leiwant, a past Jewish Federation president, played in the history of Jewish life in the Greater MetroWest area.

To donate collections to JHS, contact: Linda Forgosh at 973-929-2994 or lforgosh@jfedgmw.org

Linda Forgosh with Stan Loewenthal

Life at Newark’s Jewish Family Home

By Stan Loewenthal

The Jewish Children’s Home was an orphanage located at 534 Clinton Avenue in Newark, NJ. I was not an orphan and neither were the approximately 30 youngsters who lived at the Home in the early 1950s. Like them, my sister and I were there because of other family problems.

On the rare occasion when I mention this to someone the usual response is, “Oh, my God, that must have been terrible.” However, that was not the case.

Recently, I did some research at the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey and the archives at Rutgers University. The information I found helped me recall the time I spent there.

I remember my days at the Jewish Children’s Home as very happy. True, I missed my Mom. But my big sister, Joan, was there so I knew I was safe. I remember that I was seven years old and I was in a group of “Junior Boys.” My counselor was named Margot and the director was Mr. Bookman. We were treated very well.

Friday nights were special. The girls said the blessings over the Shabbat candles which was followed by a big meal. Afterwards, we piled into cars and the counselors took us out for ice cream sundaes.

Up the street was Temple B’nai Abraham. They had a pool and game room which we were allowed to use. We all received a small allowance, which was enough to pay for a movie every weekend at the Roosevelt theater, which was within walking distance.

College kids were hired as counsellors in the summer. They took us swimming to various lakes and beaches around the state. It was a great place and I thank the Jewish charities of that time for a job well done. If there is someone out there who was at the Jewish Children’s Home at that time, I would love to hear from you.

Stan Loewenthal, 732-754-5640

By Stan Loewenthal

Notes From the Stacks

By Jill Hershorin

JHS Archivist

Research

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Fond Memories

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Stan Loewenthal, 732-754-5640
Since the beginning of the 20th century, New Yorkers, yearning for natural beauty, fresh mountain air, good food and the American way of leisure came in large numbers to the Catskills and the New Jersey town of Mount Freedom for the summer months. Some came for a long weekend, some came for a few weeks, while others rented bungalows for the entire summer. Their children attended the resorts’ summer camps, some ate at the kosher hotels, others cooked or barbequed at their bungalow, but rarely did anyone miss the nightly entertainment or hotel dances. This was an era of Jewish comedians, musicians, and performers whose careers landed them on Broadway stages and television.

The Jewish Historical Society, in conjunction with the Gaelen Gallery West, is co-sponsoring a lecture titled “My Summer Vacation.” On Sunday, December 13 from 2pm to 4pm. The speakers are world-class photographer, Heidi Warner, and the Society’s curator, Linda Forgosh who has written and spoken about Greater MetroWest’s hotel era since 2002. An exhibit, also titled “My Summer Vacation” will open December 2 at the JCC in Whippany. This exhibit combines Warner’s photographs of the Borscht Belt’s hotels and their decaying remains with an exhibit of one-time Jewish hotels in towns such as Mount Freedom, Pine Brook, Lake Hopatcong, and West Orange. Similar to the hotels in the Catskills, New Jersey’s resort hotels no longer exist. You are welcome to bring your memories of a by-gone era when you could order endless amounts of food off the hotel’s menu and then ask for seconds.

**HISTORIC EVENT** — Sara Schatz, left, a participant in the SeniorITIS program of the Partnership for Jewish Learning and Life, spent her summer as a volunteer at the Society. Linda Forgosh guided her on an assignment to curate an exhibit celebrating our 25th anniversary.

Warren Grover, Continued from 4

now called Congregation B’nai Jacob, merged with Ahawas Achim, and the name was officially changed to Ahawas Achim B’nai Jacob.

“The goal of creating a year long list of activities to help commemorate AABJ&D’s 50th year anniversary is to help synagogue members develop a shared sense of communal history,” commented Mali Schwartz. “I hope that participating in this three week lecture series will enable people to understand the sacrifices the Jews who left Newark made when they had to make a new start in the surrounding suburbs.”
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Executive Director/Curator
Jill Hershorin
Archivist
Irene Segal
Administrator
Howard Kiesel
Editor
Marvin Slatkin
Production/Graphics

.Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 1, 2015 – Time: 2:30 pm
“SUNDAY WITH SCHARY”
Recalling the life and times of legendary Hollywood screenwriter and produce-
der, Dore Schary. Film expert Dr. Eric A. Goldman will show film clips
from Schary’s movies and a short video by daughter, Jill Schary will talk
about Schary’s family in Newark.
Place: Alex Aidekman Campus – 901 Route 10, Whippany NJ

Wed. November 4, 2015 – Time: 7:30 pm
Lecture by WARREN GROVER
Speaking about the history of Synagogues of Newark –
co-sponsored by JHSNJ
Place: Congregation AABJ&D - 700 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange NJ

Wed., November 11, 2015 – Time: 7:00 pm
Film: “BATTLEGROUND”
Commemorating Veteran's Day with the showing of the movie
“Battleground” that tells of the heroic acts of America’s military during
WWII’s Battle of the Bulge. The film will be introduced by (JHS past-presi-
dent) Bob Max, who was captured during this battle and forced into slave
labor by the Germans.
Place: Alex Aidekman Campus – 901 Route 10, Whippany NJ

Exhibit: “MY SUMMER VACATION”
The exhibit documents popular Jewish hotels and resorts in Mount
Freedom, West Orange, Pine Brook, and Lake Hopatcong. Adjacent to
this exhibit will be photographs of the one-time Catskill Mountain hotels
by MetroWest resident, Heidi Warner.
Place: Gaelen Gallery West in the JCC in Whippany

Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015 – 2:00 pm
Tour of exhibit “MY SUMMER VACATION”
Heidi Warner and JHS curator, Linda Forgosh, will act as docents for the
exhibit “My Summer Vacation.” The exhibit runs through January 28.
Place: Gaelen Gallery West in the JCC, Whippany