Board of Trustees

Hal Braff
Jane Eisenstat
Thelma Flott
Martin Fox
Sanford Hollander
Rabbi Shalom L. Binin

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

- April 7, 2017  4 p.m. at NJIT (New Jersey Institute for Technology) Center King Building, Room 219 Newark, NJ
- May 4  7 p.m. at Scotch Plains Public Library 1927 Bath Avenue Scotch Plains, NJ
- May 15  11 a.m. at Congregation Aheida, 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)

President's Message

Dear Ben-Shimon,

I am writing this letter in my capacity as President of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey (JHSNJ). I am writing to inform you of a recent development that has occurred within our organization.

Hal Braff has been recognized by the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey as the recipient of the Lasting Impressions Award. This award is given annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Jewish community in New Jersey. Hal Braff has been a long-time supporter of our society and has actively participated in our events and programs.

Hal Braff was honored at the Lasting Impressions Gala, which was held on May 10, 2017, at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston, New Jersey. The gala featured a special performance by the Weequahic High School alumni choir, which is a testament to the deep roots that Hal has in our community.

Hal Braff has been a lifelong advocate for civil rights and has played a key role in many important social movements. His contributions have been recognized nationally, and he has been honored with numerous awards and recognitions.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to Hal Braff for his continued support and commitment to the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey. His contributions have been invaluable, and we are grateful for his leadership and dedication.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Rose, JHSNJ President

Hal Braff to be Honored at JHS Lasting Impressions Gala

The Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey 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.

Hal Braff has been recognized as one of the Best Attorneys in New Jersey and has served as an adjunct professor at Rutgers University. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and has been honored with many professional awards, including the A. Sherman Cohn Award from Israel Bonds.

Hal Braff’s contributions to the Jewish community in New Jersey have been recognized with numerous awards and recognitions. He has served as a mediator and arbitrator for the New Jersey Inns of Court and has been honored with the Daniel J. O’Hern Award presented by the New Jersey Inns of Court.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to Hal Braff for his continued support and commitment to the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey. His contributions have been invaluable, and we are grateful for his leadership and dedication.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Rose, JHSNJ President

Calendar of Events

- Lasting Impressions Gala May 10, 2017  8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Crystal Plaza in Livingston
- Exhibit: “Synagogues of Newark.” May 18 to August 31, 2017 at Aheida, 700 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange
- Presentation of Intergenerational Program June 2, 2017 at 2 Noon at 1155 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange

Thanks!

The JHS newsletter is founded by a generous donation from the Klein/Fien Philanthropic Fund whose wisdom and humanity make it possible to publish this newsletter. The fund is managed by Jaffe, Fien, Wohl, and Mark Fox.

Finite Time Traveler

Hal Braff continued from page 1

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 Gurney, during the period of unrest in Newark in 1967. He is a lifetime mem-ber of NAACP.

He has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America, Best Attorneys in New Jersey, and in 2015 was named Lawyer of the Year by JHSNJ.

Many recognitions

Hal has been recognized by numerous organizations and has received many awards for his contributions to the Jewish community.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple Sholom Shaolin at Springfield and is a Co-chair of the Israel Bond and JHS committees there. He is a recipient of the Ben Gurion Award from Israel Bonds. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, which has honored him with the Lasting Impressions Award Gala on May 10, 2017, to be held at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston, New Jersey.

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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, History: Gaining a Deeper Understanding of History Using Personal Accounts," at the Daughters of Israel Geriatric Center. Over 200 West Orange Free 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 52 of my students will participate due to how many senior residents are available.”

Begun in 2009

Drabik, who introduced this program to the West Orange Free 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 was the chance during lunch when someone else was 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, said, “Being flexible and evaluating the various components of the program each year helps 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 resident.

Two West Orange High School students, participating in the 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 Newark during the first half of the 20th century, when the Jewish population of Newark numbered more than 60,000.

The JHS first came into documents about Newark’s synagogues was initiated by our past-president Warren Grosser who had his son, Owen, a summer job at the Newark Y.W.C.A. and 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 Briner, and Newarkphilite Milton Weinreb 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 Yosur, 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 Hersherin.

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 slides show 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 973-696-8489, Phil Yosur at 973-503-529, or Linda Forgosh 973-929-2994 whose email is Fosbgh@jfedgmw.org. **

Notes From the Stacks

For Rambam Heritage walk at AJBMD Temple
Ellen Craner
Jaci Gersham
Steve Bobulman
Deborde/Gottesman Foundation

Congregation Rambam Israel, Millburn, was founded by the Butcher family, owners of a Millburn hardware store by the same name, as far back as 1920. Descendants Jews and Judit Ruchner of Washington, DC, shown in Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey director Linda Forgosh, left, visited the JHS recently to share pieces of local history. **

New Members

Michael Goldberg
Bore Doran
Michael Nevis

Tributes

Jill Gaiter
In honor of Eibel & Bob Singer
Ellen Oxford
In honor of Jackie & Howard Levine

Donations

Ed Shapiro Trust
For Rambam Heritage talk at AJBMD Temple
Ellen Craner
Jaci Gersham
Susan & Robert Rushman

Shira Vickar-Fox, managing editor

Every day is Throwback Thursday!
www.facebook.com/JewishHistoricalSocietyNJ

What will happen to the historic archives of a newspaper dedicated solely to documenting Jewish life in Greater MetroWest? 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 cost of digitizing the pages of the paper, it is possible that one day we will awaken to discover that we have “NO HIS TORY” 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 SJN contact Linda Forgosh 973-929-2994 or e-mail rfeb@jfedgmw.org. **