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

Volume 28, Number 2  
FALL 2018

President’s Report  
By Robert G. Rose

It was a little over a year ago, that the Society launched a fund raising effort to digitize The Jewish News. The paper began publishing on January 3, 1947. For nearly 70 years, until September 22, 2016, it was published in-house by the Greater MetroWest Federation and its predecessors. It was, and still remains, the newspaper of record for our Jewish community.

Its pages have chronicled the religious, social, and business life cycle of the community, from birth announcements, to Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, engagements and weddings, promotions, anniversaries, milestone events and finally, to obituaries.

To review the advertising in its pages, reaching back over 70 years, is itself, a history of business and commerce in our community. Its pages witnessed the birth of Israel and the often difficult years that followed. The paper detailed the work and achievements of Federation and its agencies as the community migrated from the urban centers of Newark and Elizabeth to the suburbs.

Our call for help to fund the digitization project was a great success. Paula and the late Jerry Gottesman, of blessed memory, and Society board member and former president, Warren Grover, provided the necessary seed money to advance the project. A number of members of our board and the community then followed with additional donations.

(Continued on page 4)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT By Linda Forgosh

Philip Roth, whose death on May 22 of this year was broadcast on CNN’s ‘Breaking News’ at the ungodly hour of 4:15 in the morning.

Coincidentally, his death coincided with my own mother’s birthday, making it one day I would not soon forget.


The Washington Post opines: “What Philip Roth wanted us to notice about his work took us to Newark for the celebration of Philip Roth’s 80th birthday - March 19, 2013 - and offered the reader a visual image of a towering birthday cake made of books, a marching band from Weequahic High School and practically everyone you could think of in the literary world on hand to honor Roth, who as an 80 year old novelist, expressed relief at having given up writing novels “at long last.”

Clearly Roth’s books earned universal acclaim. His death led to near instantaneous debate about which of his books was his best. Probably his fiercest and most loyal readers hailed from Weequahic, Newark’s Legendary Jewish neighborhood.

So it is to those individuals who sent in their memories of this world famous author to be featured in Jac Toporek’s weekly Weequahic newsletter to whom I say thanks.

Ellyn Mantell writes “I Will Miss You, Philip Roth.” Ellyn considered him to be a national treasure. She had watched his career blossom from the time she was a teenager and young woman. Even if Roth’s mother was her father’s first cousin, she still wasn’t allowed to read Roth’s blockbuster novel, “Portnoy’s Complaint.”

Philip Greenberg writes “My relationship with Philip was brief. We met when we were in 9th grade. Due to overcrowding we went to different elementary schools. Mine was Bragaw; his was Chancellor Avenue. At Weequahic, there was a school newspaper and I was the editor, although for a very short time until I realized that I should share the position with Philip. We then became co-editors.

IN MEMORIAM  
PHILIP ROTH  
1933-2018

(Continued on page 2)
The Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey hosts The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

There are numerous ways to preserve and promote New Jersey history but none is more active or inclusive than the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

Founded in 1966, the League is composed of over 220 organizations that represent over 45,000 individual members, local historical societies, related institutions, county agencies, museums, libraries and archival groups, historic preservation agencies, and a variety of other organizations devoted to and interested in New Jersey history, which includes our own JHS.

The League holds three meetings each year for all of its members, one in each of the regions – Northern, Central, and Southern New Jersey that are hosted by member societies.

This year the JHS is honored to host the League’s 2018 fall meeting, here in Whippany. The day’s activities include welcoming remarks by JHS President, Robert G. Rose and Mayor of East Hanover Township, Ronald F. Francioli. Lynn Magnusson will speak on the value of having artifacts appraised by a qualified appraiser.

And if you missed your opportunity to hear our own Executive Director, Linda Forgosh, speak about “The Remarkable Legacy of Louis Bamberger” you have another chance to relive his importance to New Jersey history.

There will be several exhibits in showcases; two dedicated to world renown author, Philip Roth; one featuring artifacts from the Society’s archives, another with Newark memorabilia from the Karp Family Collection, and a showcase with a display of early New Jersey postal history. You can also check the JHS website at www.jhs-nj.org.

In addition, Newark photographer, Mansa Mussa, has agreed to lend us several photographs of his work which are well worth viewing.

Of course there will be time for coffee and a continental breakfast and lunch will be served on the premises.

There are no restrictions on who may attend. The only requirement is to complete and return the attached registration form.

For additional information, contact Irene Segal (973) 929-2703 or email isegal@jhsmw.org or Linda Forgosh (973) 929-2994 lforgosh@jfedgmw.org. See back page to register. ♦

In the meantime, let me wish one and all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Linda Forgosh, Executive Director and Curator
JHSNJ Intergenerational Oral History Program highlighting Daughters of Israel participant Sandye Garrison

By Mali Schwartz

This was the first year that Daughters of Israel senior resident Sandye Garrison has participated in the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey sponsored intergenerational oral history program. Sandye remembers spending time with her grandmother and getting invaluable advice from her about life.

She is happy that she can give back by partnering with two West Orange High School freshmen students who during four field trips, interviewed Sandye about her life. She was able to share her own unique life experiences to help the two girls she partnered with, “to help them make their own life decisions.”

Confronting stereotypes is one of the discussion topics program participants discuss. A question that is posed to senior residents based on this topic is, “Have you ever been discriminated against regarding your age, sex, education level, race, religion?” Sandye’s life story is unique in the sense that she crafted her own career and did it on her terms.

Sandye was enrolled in Mt. Sinai Nursing School when she was “discovered” while dancing the tango at the Brooklyn JCC. A casting agent approached her and mentioned that he needed to cast a movie, “Around the World in 80 Days.” He asked her to help since she told him that she was from Brooklyn and knew a lot of people. She also met Huntington Hartford, owner of the A&P supermarket chain, who suggested that she was a natural and that she should try her hand at being a casting agent. She agreed and never looked back.

During her thirty year career in show business, Sandye raised her four children as a single mother in Manhattan while traveling to Hollywood on a monthly basis. She worked with distinguished directors and producers such as Stanley Jaffe who became president of Paramount Pictures. Sandye became the casting director and liaison between the movie “The Godfather” and the production company. She has worked with Frances Ford Coppola as well as William Friedkin, and discovered Al Pacino, Robert DeNiro and Ali McGraw.

One of her proudest accomplishments is her charitable work. In 2004, Sandye was presented with a prestigious award for her volunteer work with Women of Tomorrow, a mentor and scholarship program for at-risk young women. She promoted the program at colleges and businesses and was able to raise considerable funds for scholarships.

(Continued on page 6)
President’s Report  
(Continued from page 1)

The project was fully funded with a generous contribution from the Friends of the Jewish News, led by Karen Rozenberg and former board members of the newspaper.

The contents of the newspaper is being digitally scanned in a word searchable format. It will be available to all, free of charge, through a link on our Society’s website. The launch date for the first installment of the paper, digitized into the 1960s, is Friday, September 21, 2018. Please be sure to take a look at this remarkable archive of our community’s history. ◆

Digitization Day – New Jersey Jewish News (1947 to present) is being scanned and digitized by Hudson Archival for the Jewish Historical Society of NJ. Displaying copies of the newspaper are (L-R) JHS archivist Jill Hershorin, Hudson Archival president Toya Dubin and JHS President Robert G. Rose. Contact Linda Forgosh at (973)929-2994 or LForgosh@jfedgmvw.org.

By Jill Hershorin, JHSNJ Archivist

The Ginsberg Family Collection in Trade Journal

In 2015 the JHS was honored to receive materials from the Society’s member, Pat Sebold. For decades, Pat, a local politician in Essex County, NJ, has been the keeper of some of her family’s memorabilia. This trove includes hardback and paperback copies of the family’s published writings, letters to and from family members, and newspaper clippings of the Ginsberg family.

Finally, after a few years of convincing, Sebold donated the materials to our archive in 2015. We have known of Sebold’s accomplishments in the public and personally, we know that Pat is the first cousin of author, poet and philosopher, Allen Ginsberg.

Though this collection was processed (organized and described in our database), it was not widely known to researchers. We initially made announcements about this collection through our website (jhs-nj.org), bi-annual newsletters, stories and highlights in our local newspaper, press releases, Facebook posts, and catalogue entries to the international database, OCLC (Online Computer Library Center.)

Because this is an important addition to our archive, I decided to write an article about this collection and send it to many professional publications in my field. By submitting an article to publications, our hope was to raise awareness about this collection.

This article generated a lot of interest from the editors that I sent it to and has since been posted online in an archival newsletter called Solo: The Lone Arrangers Quarterly Newsletter.

The article was also published in the nation-wide magazine, Archival Outlook, by the Society of American Archivists. It is an award winning bi-monthly magazine with a print circulation of more than 6,200.

To my surprise, the article was used for the main story and an image was used on the cover. This publication is very important in my field and it is my hope that this will generate further interest in the collection.

I am currently revising the article for another publication that reaches the Mid-Atlantic Archival community.

It is our hope that people will visit the Ginsberg Family collection and see how different the materials are from those housed at larger repositories, namely Stanford and Columbia Universities. The materials in the Ginsberg Family Collection provides the researcher insight into this close family whose laughter, opinions and love is clearly understood. ◆
COMING EVENTS

September 27, 2018, 2-4 p.m.
LEONARD BERNSTEIN @ 100 with guest speaker
DR. EDWARD SHAPIRO. Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Center 901 Route 10, Whippany.

October 28, 2018, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
BREAKFAST AT WHIPPANY: THE JHS HOSTS THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY
with break for lunch. Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Center, 901 Route 10, Whippany. See article on page 2.

OPEN OCTOBER 30, 2018
“FROM THE COOKING POT TO THE MELTING POT: FOOD WAYS IN NEW JERSEY.” The exhibit will feature ethnic cuisines from groups who have settled in New Jersey, which includes foods typically associated with Jewish style cooking. The JHS has contributed valuable cooking utensils from the 1930s and 40s to the exhibit, including a hand operated meat grinder, wooden spoons, metal jello molds, scale with weights and measurements, Foley sifter, metal colander and other items that you won’t find in any well-stocked cooking store today. Of special interest is the original dairy menu from the renowned Weequahic Diner, courtesy of Sheldon Bross.

November 11, 2018, 2-4 p.m. (Veteran Day)
REFLECTIONS ON THE LONG DAMN SUMMER OF ’42 AND ITS LESSONS FOR OUR TIMES WITH SPEAKER ROBERT LEONARD BERKOWITZ documents two extraordinary events. The first takes place at Madison Square Garden, where Robert’s cousin Allie Stolz, a young Jewish boxer from Newark, fights for the world lightweight boxing title in a bout exposed as one of the great injustices in boxing history.

The second occurs on September 11th, the eve of the Jewish New Year, in the sanctuary of Newark’s largest synagogue, where Rabbi Joachim Prinz delivers a shocking sermon that discloses for the first time in a public forum the depth of destruction of European Jewery, or what would later come to be known as the Holocaust.

Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Center, 901 Route 10, Whippany. Note: This event will be cosponsored with the Holocaust Studies Department.

OUR THANKS

This JHSNJ newsletter is funded by a generous donation from the Klein/Fien Philanthropic Funds which enables the Society to publish its biannual newsletters. The fund is managed by Judie Fien-Helfman and Mark Fien, the children of the Society’s founders, Ruth and Jerome Fien.
Giving back is something that is not only Sandye’s dream but a measurable goal. Prior to Daughters of Israel Giving Back is something that is not only Sandye’s dream but a measurable goal. Prior to Daughters of Israel, Sandye resided at the Jewish Community Housing Corp (JCHC) apartments, where she created the first resident council leadership conference, launched Bubbe’s Bazaar to benefit the Tenants Association, arranged the showing of three movies a week, and organized an Oscar’s night for 10 years which she then introduced to the Daughters of Israel.

Always thinking about different ways to combine her career in movies with her current audience, Sandye shared several other of her ideas, such as having a Playbill evening where residents dress up as a particular Broadway character; and staging a Cabaret Night where talented residents and staff will perform.

We are lucky to have someone of Sandye Garrison’s energy and enthusiasm participating in our program this year. We hope she continues sharing her stories and zest for life with many more students.

The JHSNJ sponsored intergenerational oral history program is entering its ninth year of offering this interactive program to West Orange High School students and Daughters of Israel senior residents.

We want to thank the Lillian Schenck Foundation for helping to underwrite the cost of running this program by providing a $3,000 grant. Since 2014, this private foundation has lent its support, allowing the Society to promote the importance of documenting local personal histories.

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NEW JHS MEMBERS

Joseph Adler  
Marsha Eisen  
John Florin  
Lois Larkey  
Steven Less  
Alan Weill

Give A Gift of Membership!

Your donation will help to retrieve, restore and preserve the documents that tell the story of the people, places and events of our region. Visit our website at jhs-nj.org or call us at (973) 929-2994.
IN MEMORY OF DAVID SCHECHNER

There is a Hebrew expression that when translated says “to every man (or woman) there is a story.” Meaning, we all make decisions for how to live our lives. That expression can be applied to the life and times of our long-tenured board member, David Schechner, who died at age 89 on April 12 of this year.

David was a fourth-generation descendant of Oheb Shalom Congregation’s founding religious leader, Rabbi Isaac Schwarz. He was involved in synagogue life early on. He served as the 26th president of the congregation.

In 1994 Schechner founded a weekly Talmud class that still meets today and has regularly drawn more than 30 people. It began in his law offices in West Orange but now relies on finding a new leader for the group, which, his daughter Sara Jane Schechner said, “would be a real testament to her father.”

Born in Newark, Schechner grew up in the Weequahic section of the city and spent his summers in Bradley Beach, where he met his future wife, Norma Nurkin, as a teenager. They married in 1953 after he had earned a B.A. from Lafayette College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

A partner in the West Orange law firm Schechner & Targan, he was proud of his membership in the ACLU and took on many civil rights cases pro bono. It was important to him to “help the downtrodden and the helpless,” his son Paul said.

He was also a longtime trustee of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and a member of its Scholarship Committee. Recently, a scholarship was given out in his memory to a student from the Class of 2018. His wife Norma and former WHS grad, Rita Waldor, attended the ceremony.

To the JHS’ advantage he was always ready to give a d’var Torah at the board’s meetings with a message that was relevant and reflected his complete knowledge of Torah and Jewish tradition.

David will be missed!

“You Oughta’ Be In Pictures”
If you, a relative, or a friend have historic documents, photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia that tells the story of Jewish life in Greater MetroWest, then please call the Society’s main number (973) 929-2994.

Promoting State’s History – Jewish Historical Society of NJ Executive Director Linda Forgosh (left) and Alice Gibson, representing The League of Historical Societies of NJ, are prepping for the League’s Fall 2018 meeting to be held at the Aidekman Jewish Community Center in Whippany on Oct. 28th. For more information contact Linda Forgosh at (973) 929-2994 or LForgosh@jfedgmw.org.

Community Legend – Jewish community leader Jackie Levine (left) is the subject of a biography being written by Adam McGovern, seated next to her. JHS Executive Director Linda Forgosh, center arranged for videographer Heather Quinlan to tape the interview. Looking on is Levine’s daughter Ellen Cramer and Levine’s husband Howard. To share a Jackie Levine story or a photograph, contact Linda Forgosh at (973) 929-2994 or LForgosh@jfedgmw.org.
Celebrating History - Thelma Florin was the honoree at The Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey’s 28th annual Lasting Impressions gala held on May 9. Florin, third from left, is flanked by, from left, Diane Bakst, Arlene Muney, Andrea Grover, Sarabeth Wizen, Barbara Drench, Rebecca Gold, and Audrey Gaelen, seated.

Community History Day - Wedged between displays of Newark’s prominent civil rights leader Junius Williams and representatives of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee was an exhibit prepared by the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey with photographs from its archives documenting the history of Jewish life in Newark. At the exhibit are from left, JHS board member, Robert Singer, Singer’s granddaughter Anna Rose Krause, and JHS Executive Director Linda Forgosh.

History Donor – Holding a panoramic photo of a gala dinner sponsored by the former Beth Torah synagogue located in Orange and held at Newark’s Essex House are Marsha Beirach Eisen (right) a new Jewish Historical Society (JHS) of New Jersey member, and archivist Jill Hershorin. JHS encourages individuals with history-related items to donate them to its archives.

“Amazing” Tour – Lester Senior Housing Director, Keisha McDonald (second from left) dubbed a visit to the Jewish Historical Society of NJ’s archives as “an amazing tour.” Tours of the archives are available weekdays by appointment. Contact Linda Forgosh at (973) 929-2994 or LForgosh@jfedgmw.org.
Letter to the Editor of the NJ Jewish News

Dear Mr. Kahn:

I would like to express my appreciation to the New Jersey Jewish News, and Robert Wiener specifically, for their recent feature article about the Erste Bershader KUV film project titled, “A Slice of History.” I also want to thank Linda Forgosh, executive director of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, and Bruce Bertrand, videographer, for their work in converting the films and promoting recognition of this project, so nicely explained in Mr. Wiener’s story.

What started for me as a casual interest has turned into a genuine effort to consolidate and memorialize what is still known about the organization’s history and good works. As I delve deeper, I am meeting other descendants of former Erste Bershader KUV members. I am struck by the broad ranging social impact that the organization had on Jews of prior generations that continue to this day. I believe that these films are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what can still be learned.

My hope is that Mr. Weiner’s article will raise awareness of my work so that anyone who has any memorabilia or who knows about the Erste Bershader KUV (or its affiliated organizations in Brooklyn and Philadelphia) will share what they know so that it can be preserved for generations to come. I can be reached at bershaderhistory@gmail.com.

Gary Levenston
Boca Raton, FL

Historical Networking – Representatives from South Jersey’s Tri-County Jewish Historical Society spent a day at Jewish Historical Society of NJ’s Whippany office to learn more about its archives. With JHS Executive Director Linda Forgosh (left) are Bernard Cedar, Ruth Bogutz and Dawn Stern.

Rare Photograph – Greater MetroWest resident Nancy Kelner donated a photograph of Camp Y-Ho-Ca, taken at the old Elizabeth YMHA located on East Jersey Street. To donate historic memorabilia that tell the story of Jewish life in Union County contact Linda Forgosh at 973-929-2994 or LForgosh@jfedgmw.org.

For Almost Three Decades...

Since 1990, more than 28 years ago, the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey has been collecting, preserving, maintaining and making available to the public the records of administrative, legal, fiscal or historical value, historical artifacts, books, oral history and manuscript collections.
Please return below registration form by October 19, 2018. Pay by check in the amount of $30 to:

Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey
901 Route 10, Whippany, NJ 07836

Credit cards are also accepted by calling Irene Segal at (973) 929-2703.

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