

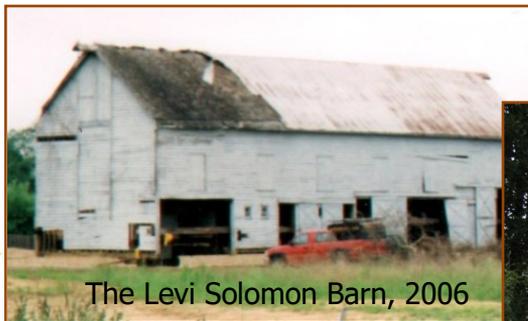
# Heritage Highlights

A Publication of THE JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

Vol. X Issue 1 Fall 2016

Elul, 5776, Tishrei, Cheshvan, Kislev, 5777

*The* **JHMOMC**  
Fall Season of  
History, Education,  
and Culture *Begins*



The Levi Solomon Barn, 2006



The JHMOMC, 2016

The **JHMOMC**  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Continues

## Co-Presidents' Message

Even as the Museum continues to recognize its 10th Anniversary year in 2016, we begin a new *fiscal* year and welcome Barbara Silvers and Bella Scharff Zelingher to the Board of Trustees, elected at the Annual Meeting in June. We also thank outgoing Board member Irwin Ostrega for his enthusiasm and contributions during his term of service.

At our 10th Anniversary Gala in April, we were thrilled with the announcement of a generous donation of \$50,000 from community members Nardi Hochberg, Ron Dana, Peter Costanzo, and Eddie Haddad. Nardi stated his wish that this gift would impact our community's youth with special programming, assistance with transportation, as well as increase awareness of the educational opportunities the Museum can provide. He encouraged the Museum to plan to share our history with the next generation, so the Board has agreed to create the **L'dor Va'dor Fund** (from Generation to Generation.) This fall, the Fund will be supporting student-only presentations of *Wiesenthal-the Play*, and other possibilities for youth are being explored. L'dor Va'dor has begun!

At the Annual Meeting in June, we also announced that the Museum's Board has established a **Legacy** program to build an Endowment Fund that will help ensure the stability of the Museum for generations to come. Becoming a Legacy donor is easy, and because this program is being assisted by the Jewish Federation, the Museum can receive a \$5000 incentive if we have 18 commitments this year! We already have five, and would love to add YOU to the list. Call the Museum for information.

We wish you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and hope that we see EVERYONE this year at the Museum.

Alice Berman, Jeff Wolf  
Co-Presidents

## Tribute Cards



### Tribute Card front

The Jewish Heritage Museum sells these beautiful Tribute Cards. You can use them to honor someone, wish someone a speedy recovery, or send a card for condolences. A set of three cards sells for \$10.00. It's a great way to give a donation to the Museum. Please contact the Museum at 732-252-6990 or by email at info@jhmomc.org and we will gladly help you with your purchase.

## Gertrude Stein, is Gertrude Stein, is Gertrude Stein

### A talk by Professor Maurice Mahler

On Wed. Nov. 9 at 1 pm, Maurice Mahler will present a film and talk about Gertrude Stein and her contribution to the art world. Mr. Mahler has presented other art lectures at the Museum that have been well received. He teaches at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University. He has taught at the School of Visual Arts and has worked in advertising. The world may not have known of Pablo Picasso nor Matisse if it weren't for the forward thinking, unconventional Stein family, who opened their homes to the entire community of artists and writers who were part of the new Avant-garde movement in France. By buying the artists' works and supporting their efforts, modern art was born and promoted.

- Julie Warshawsky

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of Monmouth County**  
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## Tuesday is Schmoozeday

Tuesday is Schmoozeday at the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County Jewish Journaling group. If you're wondering what it's all about, it's probably not what you think. We write a little and talk a lot. We share thoughts, ideas, memories, successes, failures, issues, answers, recipes, philosophies, resources, ideas, dreams, jokes, joys, laughter, frustrations, information, stories, and everything else under the sun. Do you remember Ebbinger's Bakery in Brooklyn? Hanging out on Chancellor Avenue in Newark? The birth of your first child? Your grandson's Bar Mitzvah? Your mother's chicken soup? Lighting Shabbat Candles? Are you looking ahead and wondering what's next? Some things we've written and talked about:

I was thin once for a day...

I think I'm forgetting more...

I remember my grandmother...

I miss having a family...

I can't believe I'm this age...

I'm looking for a synagogue...

I used to light Shabbos candles...

I'm reading the most interesting book...

Come share stories and adventures with us all with a Jewish Flair. Are you looking for a warm welcoming Jewish Community, with many denominations and many different interests? Come for one session, or come every week. We'd love to meet you and we promise a warm welcome. We meet Tuesday mornings from 10:30 AM - Noon. \$5.00 per session. For more information call 732-252-6990.

- Michele Klausner

## Speakers Bureau



Sid Marshall and Jean Klerman presenting a Speakers Bureau program at the Long Branch Public Library in June.

For a list of available programs and more information, please contact the Administrative Assistant at 732-252-6990 or check our website.

## Fund Raising Committee: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Appeal and more

The Jewish Heritage Museum is grateful for the support of its members and donors, whose thoughtful gifts to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Appeal, in addition to the generosity of those who attended our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, have helped the Museum fulfill its mission for another year!

Looking ahead, the Fund Raising Committee is planning new projects for the coming fall and winter season that are exciting and unique, and hope that our faithful community members will participate in these activities that will enable the Museum to continue on its positive path.

We are planning the second **Annual Holiday Boutique on Sunday, December 4, 2016, from 11 AM - 3 PM.** We invite vendors to call and inquire about space. We anticipate that we will offer a variety of items which may include jewelry, books, Judaica, and once again vintage mah jongg sets. Pre-holiday shopping is becoming a tradition at the Museum.

Innovation is our keyword, so we will be offering a series of "Craft Nights at the Museum" on Wednesday evenings in the winter and spring. To warm us up, we will serve "nosh" and wine to bring out the creative spirit in all! A musical program, "Notes and Nosh" at the Museum, and "Art after Dark" at Around the Corner Art Center in Mounts Corner Shopping Center next to the Museum, are being planned for March and April. Look for details on the Museum's website and in future mailings and email contacts.

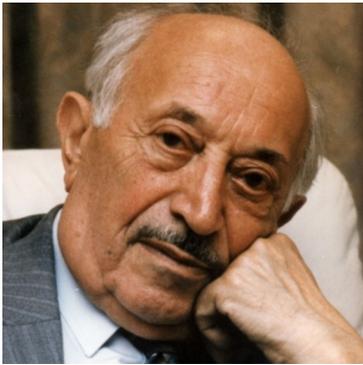
A larger fundraiser is still in the works, so keep in touch, stay informed, and keep visiting our website. We hope you will join us for enrichment, fun, and good times while assisting the JHMOMC to continue to grow!

We always welcome any suggestions you might have for these or other projects, as well as volunteers to help plan and organize activities and events. In that spirit, we want to thank the members of the Fund Raising Committee for the work that they have done, and continue to do, in order to raise additional funds for the benefit of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County.

- Phyllis Chancy Solomon  
- Helene Cohen

**Fund Raising Committee Co-Chairs**

# Honoring a Jewish Hero: Simon Wiesenthal



Simon Wiesenthal  
1908 - 2005

According to the biography produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Wiesenthal was "born on December 31, 1908 in Buczacz, in what is now the Lvov Oblast section of the Ukraine. The young Wiesenthal graduated from the Gymnasium in 1928 and applied for admission to the Polytechnic Institute

in Lvov. Turned away because of quota restrictions on Jewish students, he went instead to the Technical University of Prague, from which he received his degree in architectural engineering in 1932."

As World War II began, Wiesenthal first evaded the Russians, closed his business and took on factory work. When the Russians were displaced by the Nazis however, he "did not escape incarceration. Following initial detention in the Janowska concentration camp just outside Lvov, he and his wife were assigned to the forced labor camp serving the Ostbahn Works, the repair shop for Lvov's Eastern Railroad." In August 1942, Wiesenthal's mother was sent to the Belzec death camp. By September, most of his and his wife's relatives were dead; a total of eighty-nine members of both families perished.

Surviving two camps and the Nazis retreat trek through Poland as the war came to an end in 1945, Wiesenthal subsequently dedicated most of his life to tracking down and gathering information on fugitive Nazi war criminals so that they could be brought to justice. "When history looks back," Wiesenthal explained, "I want people to know the Nazis weren't able to kill millions of people and get away with it."

Wiesenthal began gathering and preparing evidence on Nazi atrocities for the War Crimes Section of the United States Army. The evidence supplied by Wiesenthal was utilized in the American zone war crime trials. When his association with the United States Army ended in 1947, Wiesenthal and thirty volunteers opened the Jewish Historical Documentation Center in Linz, Austria, for the purpose of assembling evidence for future trials.

Wiesenthal opened the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna in 1961 and continued to try to locate missing Nazi war criminals. He played a small role in locating Adolf Eichmann, who was captured in Buenos Aires in 1960, and he worked closely with the Austrian justice ministry to prepare a dossier on Franz Stangl, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1971.

The Wiesenthal Center biography notes that, "Wiesenthal's book of memoirs, *The Murderers Among Us*, was published in 1967. ... Mr. Wiesenthal's many honors include an Honorary Knighthood of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton, decorations from the Austrian and French resistance movements, the Dutch Freedom Medal, the Luxembourg Freedom Medal, the United Nations League for the Help of Refugees Award, the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal presented to him by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, and the French Legion of Honor which he received in 1986."

In November 1977, the Simon Wiesenthal Center was



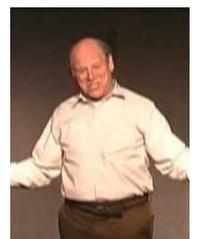
Simon Wiesenthal Center,  
Los Angeles

founded. Today, together with its world renowned Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and the New York Tolerance Center, it is an international center for Holocaust remembrance, the defense of human

rights, and the Jewish people.

Wiesenthal died in his sleep at age 96 in Vienna on September 20, 2005, and was buried in the city of Herzliya in Israel.

This November, The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County is proud to present **Wiesenthal – The Play**. This critically acclaimed one-man show, filled with hope, humanity, and humor, is the true story of Simon Wiesenthal, an ordinary man who did extraordinary things. Nicknamed the "Jewish James Bond," he devoted his life to bringing more than 1,000 Nazi war criminals to justice. His unbelievable dedication and tenacity over decades is honored in this play. The play set in 2003, two years before his death, relates the details of a few of his investigations. Among them was the pursuit of Franz Stangl, the former commandant of the Treblinka death camp. He also relates his search for the officer who arrested Anne Frank. Simon Wiesenthal's persistence, hard work, and humor are all well conveyed throughout the 90-minute running time. Local and renowned Jewish actor, Harlan Tuckman will play the role of Simon Wiesenthal.



Harlan Tuckman

Continued on page 5

The Museum will present two performances for the public, on Sunday, November 6, 2016 and Sunday, November 13, 2016. Both will be performed at 2 PM. The Museum can accommodate 80 to 100 guests on each date. Admission is \$18.00 for Museum members and \$20.00 for non-members.



Other performances to be scheduled during November 2016 will be presented for the benefit of students attending synagogues, schools and institutions dedicated to Jewish education. These performances will be free of charge to the students. Also, the Museum will provide free bus transportation, as needed, to and from the performance.

This undertaking is intended to give students an exposure to Wiesenthal's life. It also provides a view of Jewish suffering under Nazi occupation of Europe during World War II, as well as the tragedy of the Holocaust.

Please plan to attend this program as well as others the Museum will present during the balance of 2016. As part of its mission, and through many programs and exhibits, The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County continues its dedication to the promotion of public awareness of our Jewish heritage and history.

- **Vic Schioppo**  
**Program Co-Chair**

## **Leon Hess: From a Kosher Butcher Shop in Asbury Park to Owner of a Major Oil Company**

Leon Hess was born on March 14, 1914, in a third floor apartment over a kosher butcher shop, on Springwood Ave in Asbury Park. He was the youngest of four children of Lithuanian Jewish immigrants. Leon graduated from Asbury Park High School in 1931; however unlike his other siblings he never went on to college. Leon worked as a driver for his father's fuel oil company. When the company went bankrupt in 1933, he reorganized the company and aggressively underbid his competitors to win Federal oil contracts.

During World War II he rose to the rank of Major and became General George S. Patton's fuel supply officer. The speed of General Patton's tank attacks was dependent on fuel that Major Hess was able to supply. Leon Hess developed his logistical expertise while serving under General Patton. After World War II, Leon



**Leon Hess fuel truck, 1933**

married Norma Wilentz, the daughter of the former NJ Attorney General, David Wilentz.

In the late 1950s, he built his first refinery and in 1960 he opened a chain of gas stations. In the early 1960s, he built the world's largest oil refinery at the time on St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands. In 1969, he acquired the Amerada Petroleum Corporation, one of the largest producers of crude oil in the United States and merged it into Hess Oil and Chemical to form the Amerada Hess Corporation. Leon Hess served as chairman and CEO of Amerada Hess until 1995.

Leon Hess forged a bond with oil suppliers in Iran and Libya. Even though he was a Jew, Arab leaders knew he was an honest man. After the Shah of Iran's overthrow cut off crude oil shipments, Leon Hess flew to Iran to negotiate personally with the leaders of Iran's revolutionary regime.

Hess became sole owner of the NY Jets and was responsible for moving them from New York to New Jersey. He was also a major stock holder in the Monmouth Park Race Track. The October 1998 issue of *Forbes Magazine* estimated his personal fortune at \$720 million dollars and listed him among the 400 richest Americans.



**Leon Hess with then Jet Coach Bill Parcells, 1999**

Leon Hess passed away on May 7, 1999. The Leon Hess Business School at Monmouth University is named for him and the Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine of the Mount Sinai Health System is named for Leon and his wife Norma.

- **Joel Rosenbaum**  
**History Committee Member**

# Saving an Entire World: The Jewish Heritage Museum Welcomes Chris Tashima Academy-Award Winning Director, and Actor of *Visas and Virtue*

**"Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world." - Talmud**

Often amid escalating anti-Semitism across the socio-political spectrum, it is vital to remember that one person can – and must - make a difference. A salient example is Chiune "Sempo" Sugihara. Haunted by the sight of hundreds of Jewish refugees outside the consulate gates, the Japanese diplomat and his wife, stationed in Kaunas, Lithuania at the beginning of World War II, had to decide how much they were willing to risk. Inspired by a true story, *Visas and Virtue* explores the moral and professional dilemmas that the Consul General faced in making a life or death decision: defy his own government's direct orders and risk his career, by issuing live-saving transit



**Chiune "Sempo" Sugihara**

visas, or obey orders and turn his back on humanity.

This Academy Award winning 26-minute portrait gracefully captured in period black and white, by noted cinematographer Hiro Narita, poignantly pays tribute to the rescuer of 6,000 Jews from the Holocaust.



**Accepting the Live Action Short Film Oscar for *Visas and Virtue*"- actor/director Chris Tashima and producer Chris Donahue, at the 70th Academy Awards, 1998**

Sugihara, onscreen. Tashima directed, co-wrote and starred in the award-winning short film, *Day of Independence*, which depicts the life of Japanese Americans imprisoned in internment camps during World War II. He has appeared in numerous independent feature films, most recently *Under the Blood Red Sun*, a screen adaptation of the award-winning young adult novel by Graham Salisbury.

We recently conducted an email interview with Tashima about the film and its enduring ties.

GT (Grace Toy): *First of all, welcome to The Jewish Heritage Museum. We are deeply honored to have you here to share the story of Chiune Sugihara. How did you first get involved with the film? You have mentioned in past interviews that one of the main reasons was that you were inspired by such a Japanese hero. Can you talk more about that?*

Tashima: Thank you so much for reaching out, and for supporting my film. [I'm] very happy to be able to visit your museum. And thanks for following me on twitter!

I was initially asked by a theater friend, Tom Donaldson, if I would play Sugihara onstage, in a small one act production. The show was very well received, and Tom mentioned the idea of video taping the play. That inspired me to write a screenplay from the original play script. And the film was born. Yes, part of the value I saw in a film version was my being able to portray a heroic Asian character onscreen, of depth and integrity. I had rarely seen such a role, let alone had the chance to play one.

GT: *Sugihara was a Greek Orthodox believer; how do you think this influenced his decision to issue these visas?*

Tashima: I'm not sure how it may have influenced his decision, but I do think it is significant in showing what type of man he was, or more specifically, what type of Japanese he was. That is, he was very atypical, for a Japanese. In addition to his non-Japanese/non-Asian religion, he spoke several European languages, knew at a young age he wanted to work abroad thereby defying his father's wishes that he attend medical school. He married a non-Japanese woman while living in Manchuria, where he also resigned in protest to Japan's treatment of the Chinese. I only mention all this because a person capable of this type of defiance would be the kind who would help the Polish [Jewish] refugees escape Nazi Europe.

GT: *Has winning the Academy Award helped you and/or the film? How does the film still resonate for the public, and you, personally?*

Tashima: It helped the film tremendously; it is the reason why it is still being shown, now 19 years later. I think the story has continued to move people, but I don't think there would be the interest without the exposure and notoriety that comes with an Oscar. For me, this was the reason we made the film, to share

**Continued on page 7**



**Jewish refugees at the gate, July 1940. Thousands of Jews lined up in front of the Japanese Consulate in Kaunas, Lithuania, hoping to receive transit visas allowing them to escape to the Far East, America, or Palestine**

Sugihara’s story. And, it has been an honor to have had a part in bringing attention to his sacrifices.

GT: *You are well-known for your activism to help bring more visibility to Asian Americans, e.g. the Academy and #OscarsSoWhite (Twitter). How does your activism influence your work, and vice-versa?*

Tashima: The need to tell our stories, and put ourselves in front of American audiences is why I got into acting, and what inspires me to make films. I’ve been at it now for 30 years, but it’s gratifying to see the movie industry finally starting to wake up to the benefits of inclusion—for the industry and for audiences. But, it’s hard to create good films, and harder to create good films with a message. So, it’s been a long road. But, I’m still at it. And we’re making progress.

GT: *Please share something about your current projects.*

Tashima: I have a couple of scripts I’m trying to get off the ground, as indie features. A little too early to talk about, but hopefully you’ll hear something soon. There are also a few film projects that I may act in, soon, if they can find funding. These are more reasons to follow me on <https://twitter.com/christashima>! Thank you to [the] JHMOMC for hosting my film. I’m grateful for the chance to share the film.

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County welcomes **Chris Tashima, Academy Award winning director, and lead actor of *Visas and Virtue* on Sunday, September 18, 2016, at 2 p.m. Admission is \$10 non-members, \$8 members.** There will be a Question & Answer session after the film screening. For more information or to make a paid reservation (non-refundable), call the Museum at 732-252-6990, or visit [www.jhmomc.org](http://www.jhmomc.org).

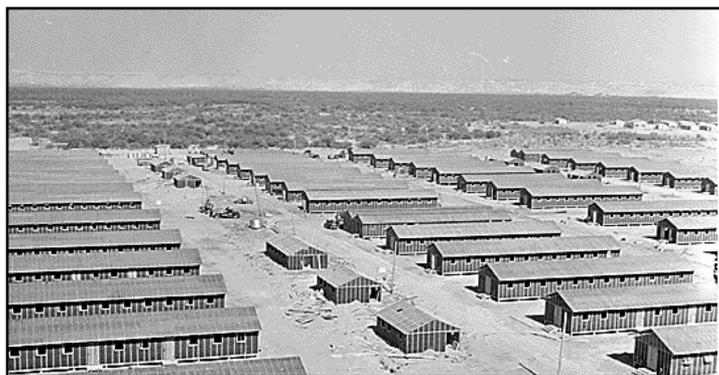
**- Grace Toy  
Public Relations Co-Chair**

## **Reflections on Japanese - Jewish History Tragedy and Irony: The Jewish and Japanese American Experience in World War II**

*The following is taken from Robert Kaita’s article “Tragedy and Irony,” which will be available for distribution at the Museum’s Sept 18th program “Visas and Virtue.” Dr. Kaita, a long-time resident of Manalapan, is a physicist at Princeton University and a family member of the Bravura Philharmonic Ensemble, whose chamber music concerts have become an annual event at the JHMOMC.*

On April 29, 1945, US troops reached the Nazi death camp in Dachau. The soldiers who were the first to enter belonged to the 522<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit of Japanese Americans. When I heard that Chris Tashima would be presenting his documentary on Chiune Sugihara at the JHMOMC in the fall, it made me reflect on my own heritage as the son of a Japanese American veteran of World War II.

My ancestors emigrated from Japan to California in 1890, a hundred and twenty-six years ago. My father was born near Sacramento, California in 1913. Those of his generation were called Nisei, or children of Japanese immigrants who were US citizens by birth. In 1942, a presidential executive order authorized the relocation of Japanese Americans to internment camps. My family was forced to go to a place called Poston in the Arizona desert.



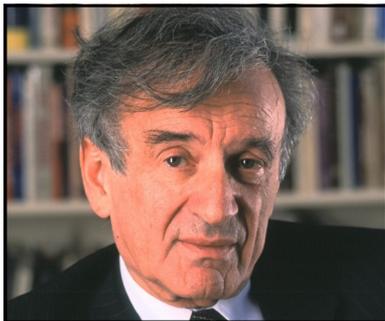
**Poston Internment Camp, Arizona**

In spite of these circumstances, my father joined the US Armed Forces like many other Nisei Japanese Americans. Because the US Army was segregated, my father could only serve with other Japanese Americans. Basic training was also segregated, so my father got to know many of those who joined the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Ironically, the Nisei soldiers who shot the locks off the gates of Dachau had, like my father, family members who were still locked up back home.

I think both the Jewish and Japanese Americans can share a common appreciation of how precious our freedom is, and how easily it can be taken away.

**Related article on Japanese - Jewish History on page 10**

## Elie Wiesel: A Tribute



**Elie Wiesel**  
1928 - 2016

Often, one's path in life is not self-determined. Rather, it can formulate from world events that occur around us.

Elie Wiesel was born in Romania in 1928, to orthodox Jewish parents. At the age of fifteen, Wiesel's world

was ripped apart. He and his family were sent to a concentration camp. At Auschwitz, Wiesel saw unspeakable horrors. For years, Wiesel would not talk about his experiences; however, he finally wrote a book, *Night*, that was based on his experiences. Yet, Wiesel did not stop there. Thrust from the awful circumstances of the Holocaust, Wiesel became active as a spokesperson for protecting all human rights. Additionally, he became one of the most eminently known survivors. Wiesel's mission was to ensure that the world never forgets.



**Elie Wiesel, Chair of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, speaking at the opening of the US Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. on April 22, 1993**

Wiesel stated, "Silence is never the answer...the opposite of love is not hatred, but indifference (qtd. in US Holocaust Memorial Museum.org). Elie Wiesel brought humanity to the forefront of our conscience.

Unfortunately, Wiesel passed away on July 2, 2016. The world has lost one of its greatest humanitarians in history. Let us never forget. **- Carol Fox**

Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum

**HELP WANTED**

The Museum is always happy to have new volunteers to fill any number of tasks that make the Museum hum. If you would like to join the team as a docent or Board member, or have an interest in **history research, public speaking, exhibit planning, computer input, genealogy, marketing, fund raising, or programming**, please contact the Museum at 732-252-6990. In particular, let us know if you have experience with Microsoft Publisher, or similar programs, and would like to assist - we'd love to have more help!

## On the Road with the Jewish Farming in Monmouth County Exhibit



**JHMOMC Co-Presidents Alice Berman and Jeffrey Wolf proudly join County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon in front of the Museum's exhibit on *Jewish Farming in Monmouth County* which was on display at the County Clerk's Office in Freehold this summer. The popular exhibit, which has already appeared at Monmouth University's History Department, and the Monmouth County Library's Headquarters and Eastern Branch, and is scheduled for the Library System's Howell Township Branch this fall.**

## Lola Kline: A Hidden Child Tells Her Story



**Lola Kline, at home, with a surviving piece of luggage that came to America with her in 1949**

Lola Kline has called Freehold Township her home for the last 47 years. She has had a full life in Monmouth County, raising two children who have blessed her with 5 grandchildren. Both her children live on the west coast, in California, but she is able to travel west to visit on occasion and they also make their way east to visit when they can. Her home is immaculately decorated and her life, since retiring three years ago from a career in the retail industry, is full. She

joined the volunteer staff at the JHMOMC a few months ago as a docent and recently became part of the Program Committee, bringing her creativity and love of people to the Museum. To the casual observer, Lola Kline's life might seem meaningful, but ordinary. Her life, in fact though, has been anything but ordinary. Her life has been extraordinary, shaped by history and world wide conflict, shaped by her family's legacy and the twist and turns that have become her story.

Lola Kline (her birth name is Lodje) was born in the winter of 1941 on her family's farm in a town known as

**Continued on page 11**

SWEETNESS COMES IN ALL FORMS: APPLES AND HONEY, TRADITIONS, AND YOUR LEGACY.



HOW WILL YOU ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS?



THE JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM OF MONMOUTH COUNTY



To create your Jewish legacy contact:  
The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County  
Alice Berman - Legacy Team Leader  
732-252-6990 or visit our website  
www.JHMOMC.org

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## The Children's Education and Events Committee

The Children's Education and Events Committee has been busy planning various activities for children during the coming year. Some of the programs in the works are: Shofar making, Children's Journal making (Oct. 16), Movie Night (Nov. 9), Ceramic Menorah or Platter Painting (Dec. 8), Bagel Making History/Hands on Demonstration, Matzah Baking, and other events along the way.

Dates and times will be advertised on our website, and in local newspapers, so watch for announcements!

- Susan Helfand

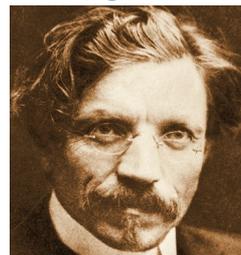
The Children's Education and Events Committee Chair

## The Jewish Literary Scene in Monmouth County History

Monmouth County is known for many things, from its beautiful beaches on the famous Jersey Shore to its rich Revolutionary War legacy, but perhaps less known is how it has attracted more than its share of Jewish literary talent. During the early twentieth century, the *Washington Post* editor and newspaper magnate Eugene Meyer, Jr. often summered in Elberon with his family,



Katherine Graham



Sholem Aleichem

including the future publisher Katherine Graham, whose name in the journalism industry would later eclipse his as she took the *Post* to new heights. The legendary writers Sholem Aleichem, whose stories



Sholem Asch

about Tevye the Dairyman were adapted into the classic show *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Sholem Asch, himself a playwright, summered in Belmar together in 1915.

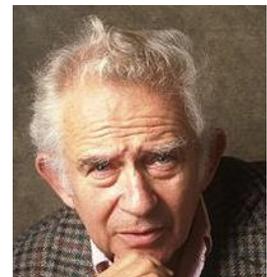


Dorothy Parker

Dorothy Parker, remembered as a versatile writer and one of the first members of the Algonquin Round Table, as well as a strong supporter of the civil rights movement, was born during the summer months in Long Branch as Dorothy Rothschild, in 1893.

Parker's career spanned poetry, short stories, and criticism, and the writer even garnered an Oscar nomination.

Charles "Cy" Rembar, renowned for his pioneering legal work regarding the first amendment, was born Charles Shapiro in 1915, in Oceanport. His most well known cases that fought against censorship, include defending *Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D. H. Lawrence and *Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller. Rembar also worked with Long Branch native Norman Mailer regarding works such as



Norman Mailer

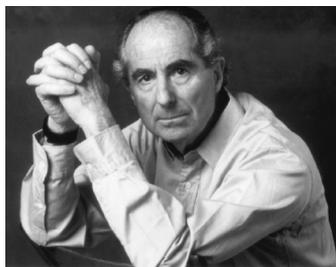
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*The Deer Park*. Rembar himself wrote several books on law, including *The End of Obscenity: The Trials of Lady Chatterley, Tropic of Cancer, and Fanny Hill*, which won the 1968 George Polk Award in the Book category.

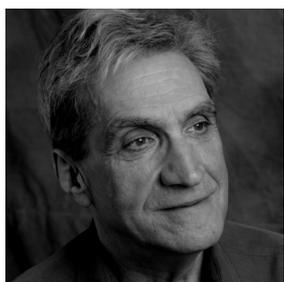
Mailer was born in 1923 in Long Branch, where his mother's family owned and ran the Scarborough Hotel. At the age of 25, Mailer was already nominated for a Pulitzer and The Gutenberg Award, and continued to have a prolific career, writing dozens of books and winning several awards, including two Pulitzers. He also wrote and performed in television and film, as well as took part in journalism as one of the founders of *The Village Voice*.

Current Jewish writers who have fond memories of Monmouth County include Philip Roth and Robert Pinsky. Born in Newark in 1933, Roth grew up spending his summers on the shore, in Bradley Beach and Belmar. The Pulitzer Prize winner, who can also claim a National Book Award described in his autobiography these summers as "paradise." Roth grew to travel around the world as part of his career as an internationally-renowned novelist, winning awards ranging from the 1958 Aga Khan Award from *Paris Review*



Philip Roth

to the prestigious Prince of Asturias Awards for Literature in 2012. Pinsky, a Long Branch native born to two opticians in 1940, has the distinction of being the first U.S. Poet Laureate in history to serve three terms. A first generation college student, he earned his PhD at Stanford after attending Rutgers as an undergraduate. His first volume of poetry, *Sadness and Happiness*, published in 1975, contains an ode to his hometown demonstrating what a lasting impression the area holds on the writers who have known it, titled simply: "Long Branch, New Jersey."



Robert Pinsky

- Anna Reich

Summer intern at the JHMOMC; student Brandeis University

Sources:

Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, 1938; 2015 Web.4 Aug 2016.

Asbury Park Press: Sept 23, 1979, A19 (Maloney, "Publisher Had Roots in Long Branch Area")

Becker, Adele, Interview, JHMOMC Oral Histories.

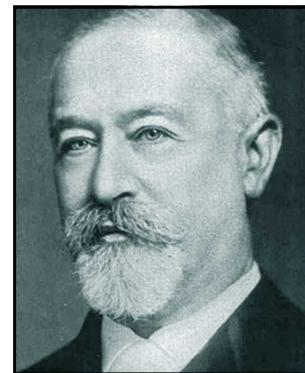
Heritage Highlights, Fall 2015, Vol IX, Issue 1: 6-7 (Herrmann, "Local Aza Chapter") ;

Heritage Highlights, Summer 2008, Vol. II, Issue 1:3(JHMOMC Sponsors Local Dorothy Parker Theater Party"); Spring 2009, Vol. II, Issue 4:p 2(Klerman, "Welcome Home Robert Pinsky"); Winter/Spring2014, Vol.VII, Issue 1:7. Long Island University, Web , 5 Aug. 2016 ("LIU Past Winners"). Los Angeles Review of Books, Oct. 8, 2015, Wed. 21, July 2016 (Rhode, "A Lawyer for Lady Chatterley's Lover") Newark Public Library ("Phillip Roth Photos" ExhibitCatalogue") Norman Mailer Center, Web 6 July 2016. Pine, Alan, "Peddler to Suburbanite" 1980, p170.

Related article on Japanese - Jewish History

## Jacob Henry Schiff and the Russo-Japanese War

The wealthy New York Jewish banker and philanthropist, Jacob Henry Schiff, played a major role in securing financial support for Japan during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. Through his firm Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Schiff was instrumental in underwriting a significant part of the Japanese effort leading to Russia's military defeat. While many



Jacob Schiff  
1847 - 1920

Americans were politically sympathetic to Japan in its fight against Russian expansionism in the Far East, Schiff was more concerned with opposing Tzarist Russia because of the Empire's inhumane persecution of its Jewish subjects. The German-born Schiff worked to rally international bankers to oppose Russian anti-Semitism and alleviate the plight of Russian Jews even before the infamous 1903 pogroms.

In gratitude for his efforts on its behalf, in 1905 Japan awarded Schiff the Order of the Sacred Treasure. In 1907, Emperor Meiji personally bestowed the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star to Schiff in a ceremony at the Imperial Palace. (President Theodore Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for negotiating the end of the Russo-Japanese War.)

Jacob Schiff was also a prominent member of the German-Jewish elite who summered at the Jersey Shore at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He and his father-in-law, Solomon Loeb, owned nearby homes in Rumson. Every July, Schiff and his family, accompanied by a retinue of servants, would embark for Rumson, leaving in August for Bar Harbor, Maine and returning to the shore after Labor Day. Schiff had his own private stateroom for the season on the steamer *Asbury Park* in which he commuted to and from Manhattan.

- Jean Klerman,  
Co-Chair, History Committee

Asmolava near Novogrudok in Poland, which is now part of Belarus. Her mother's and father's families had roots in Poland for over 200 years and both families owned grist mills in the area. To make a living, they provided milling services to farmers and area families and sold flour to local businesses and residents in the surrounding countryside.

Lola is quick to point out that her father's family had a more profitable mill and "built a house with wood floors"

(a sign of prosperity since



The town of Novogrudok

most homes, including the Bielski home, had dirt floors.) Lola's mother's maiden name was Taiba Bielski. Taiba was one of twelve children, and married her husband, Avremel Dzienciolski (date of their marriage is unknown,) and lived with her parents after their marriage. The dark clouds of war began to gather for the Jewish people of Poland and the Bielski and Dzienciolski families in 1939, and Jewish life in Poland began to change.

Lola remembers her uncles and family telling her of rules and edicts that became part of her family's everyday life, citing Jewish children not being allowed to attend public school anymore, and Jews not being allowed to walk on the sidewalks, as examples. The German Army invaded Poland in September of 1939 and annexed a large section of Western Poland to Russia as part of a pre-invasion agreement between the two countries. This included Novogrudok and the surrounding area. Rumors of isolated killings of Jewish men circulated among the Jewish population and in the summer of 1941, Lola's grandparents and her 16 year old Uncle Yankel were killed. Her Uncle Aaron (11 years old at the time) witnessed their removal from their family home and the Germans loading them into an open truck. Taiba's brothers, Zus and Asael who had fled to the woods surrounding their hometown for safety (their brother Tuvia would join them later) told Aaron to tell Taiba to leave immediately and to join them in the woods. Lola points out that the woods surrounding their home were well known to those that had grown up there. The woods would be their home and refuge for the next 3 years, but Lola would not be with them.

Upon hearing from her brother Aaron that her parents and their younger brother had been taken by the Germans, Taiba bundled her baby in a blanket and fled. Lola was about 6 months old at the time and conditions were as Lola puts it "primitive." A crying baby could give

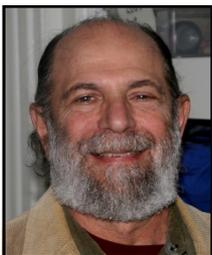
away the hiding group's position and conditions were so brutal during the long winter that a baby's survival would be a miracle at best. A place for the baby would need to be found. Lola's father knew of a childless couple that had worked in his family's mill and an "arrangement" was struck. Lola was told later by her parents that the following agreement was made between the desperate parents and the Polish couple: her parents told the couple, "You take our baby. If we do not survive, you have a baby, and if we survive the war, we will come and get our child and compensate you. In the meantime, we will visit when we can and give you whatever we have to help." They did visit, but Lola never saw them since they came infrequently in the middle of the night.

Lola was 9 months old when she was left, with a note, under the window of the Polish couple's home in the town of Huta Scklana. The note read, "I am a Christian child born to very poor parents and we hope whoever finds me will take care of me." A cross was placed around her neck, and her father, her father's brother Shlamke, cousin Penik, and her uncle Zusia (Zus) watched until the family took her in. The couple took the baby to the local police station to report the child being left and to show the note to the police chief. They wanted to see if they would be able to keep the baby, and they received permission to do so. Lola stated that if she was a baby boy this would not have been an option since a circumcised baby would be considered Jewish and the couple would not have been allowed to keep a Jewish baby. During Lola's 3 years with this couple they became the only parents she knew, and she became as attached to them as if they were her birth parents. The couple lived in a home that housed many families. During those three years, one of the families reported to the police that Lola was really Jewish and her foster parents had to appear, again, at the police station. Lola was an outgoing child and cute as well. She believes the police chief was amused by her and this may have helped, because she was allowed to stay with the couple.

Lola's parents, Taiba and Avremel, would survive the war, along with other family members, friends and others, as part of the Bielski Otriad (partisan detachment,) surviving in the forests surrounding their homeland. The group was led by Lola's Uncle Tuvia with his brother's Asael and Zus serving in leadership roles. The Otriad had grown to over 1,200 people including men, women, the elderly, and some children. They would all survive.

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County  
presents

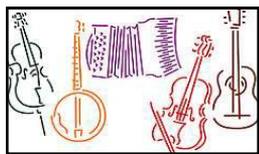
**Dr. David Brahinsky and the  
Roosevelt String Band  
in a 2 Part Lecture/Music Program  
Sunday, September 11, 2016**



Dr. David Brahinsky

**1 PM** Dr. David Brahinsky  
presents a lecture:  
**Hannah Arendt: The  
Origins of Totalitarianism  
and the Threat of ISIS**

**2:30 PM** David Brahinsky and  
the Roosevelt String  
Band present:



***Against Fascism: Songs  
that Promote Democracy,  
Toleration, and Peace***

Combined admission for both parts of the program  
**\$18 for members, \$20 for non-members**

This program is partially funded by a grant from the Jewish  
Federation in the Heart of New Jersey.



**The Jewish Heritage Museum  
of Monmouth County**

**The Past, Present, and Future of  
Professional Sports**

*presents*

A Talk and Discussion by Keith Glass

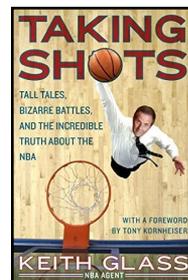


Keith Glass

Keith Glass is the CEO and  
Chairman of **Glass Global Sports  
Group (G3)** and has had some  
intriguing experiences as an  
agent for NBA players. He is the  
author of the book, *Taking  
Shots: Tall Tales, Bizarre  
Battles and the Incredible  
Truth about the NBA.*

**Wednesday,  
September 14, 2016  
7:30 PM**

**\$8 for members,  
\$10 for non-members**



The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County  
presents

**Speaker:  
Chris Tashima**



Oscar winning director,  
and actor in the  
Academy Award  
winning short film,  
*Visas and Virtue*

A Q & A will follow  
the film.

**September 18, 2016  
2 PM**

**\$8 for members,  
\$10 for non-members**

**Film:  
Visas and Virtue**

Inspired by a true story,  
*VISAS AND VIRTUE*  
explores the moral and  
professional dilemmas  
that Consul General  
Chiune "Sempo" Sugihara  
faced: defy his own  
government's direct  
orders and risk his career  
by issuing live-saving  
transit visas, or obey  
orders and turn his back  
on humanity. This  
Academy Award®  
winning film pays tribute  
to the  
rescuer of  
6,000 Jews  
from the  
Holocaust.

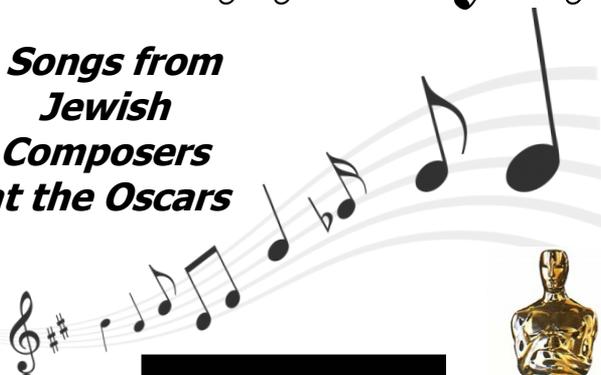


Consul General Chiune Sugihara

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County  
presents

**The Oasis Players**

***Songs from  
Jewish  
Composers  
at the Oscars***



**Sunday, October 23, 2016 2 PM**

**\$18 members, \$20 non-members**



The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County presents

# Gertrude Stein is Gertrude Stein



Gertrude Stein  
1874 – 1946

A talk presented by  
Professor Maurice Mahler



Professor  
Maurice Mahler

Gertrude Stein was an American writer, poet, feminist, and playwright who spent most of her life in France, and who became a catalyst in the development of modern art and literature. She is famous for her "flow-of-thought" and sometimes "cyclical" or "circular" manner of expression. Throughout her lifetime, Stein cultivated significant tertiary relationships with well-known members of the Avant-garde artistic and literary world of her time.

**Wednesday, November 9, 2016 1 PM**

**\$8 members, \$10 non-members**

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County presents



**Sunday,  
November 6, 2016  
2 PM**

**Sunday,  
November 13, 2016  
2 PM**

*Wiesenthal*, recently performed off Broadway, is a one-man show performed by **Harlan Tuckman**



in the role of Simon Wiesenthal, famous Nazi hunter

**\$18 members, \$20 non-members,**

**Teachers and students admitted free to any performance**

This program is partially funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey



The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County presents

# FASCINATING RHYTHM

*The Music of George Gershwin*



**Art Topilow and Friends**

**Art Topilow, piano  
Gary Mazzaroppi, bass  
Annette Sanders, vocalist**



**Sunday, December 11, 2016 2 PM**

**\$18 members, \$20 non-members**

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County presents



**Join us for an afternoon  
of Yiddish skits and songs**

The Bimah Players Community Theater presents *DELI DELIGHTS*, a smorgasbord of song, poetry, comedy and drama presenting the varied flavors of Jewish life. A show filled with laughter and pathos, *DELI DELIGHTS* offers a taste of the Jewish experience from ancient times to today, from the shtetl to the lower East Side, and from Israel to Florida.

Sponsored by the Monroe Township Jewish Center, The Bimah Players bring literature to life through the dramatization of the works of great classic authors, and they present the work of new, local playwrights. Productions also incorporate a wide range of music from classical to folk and pop.

**Sunday, December 18, 2016 2 PM**

**\$8 members, \$10 non-members**

In 1945, when it was relatively safe to leave the protection of the woods, Lola's parents came to recover their young child, but the couple would not give her up. Somehow, probably by bribery, Lola's parents were able to get the husband of the couple drafted into the Polish military. His wife would often leave the house and bring food to her husband, since provisions were scarce in post war Poland. She left Lola behind with one of her neighbors. During one of these absences, Lola's parents showed up with an official (probably also bribed,) and told the neighbor that they had come to take Lodje (Lola) to her parents because they needed to stay together on the military installation. They no longer recognized Lola since she was now 4 years old.

They went outside to a group of young children sitting in a circle and asked "who is Lodja?" One of the girls stood up and pointed to Lola. Her parents then directed their questions to the girl to whom she had pointed, asking her questions like "do you know the way to Novogradok" and "can you come with us in the wagon to show us?" She went with them to help guide them, but soon she realized they were not going the way she was telling them to go and she became very upset. Her parents tried to quiet her with candy and treats. Lola had been reunited with her birth parents, but she still considered the Polish couple she had been left with as her only real parents.

Over time Taiba and Avremel would come to an "understanding" with the couple. In fact, Lola says, that her foster mother would come to visit and stay over, sleeping in her bed with her, but only if her parents were in the house. Taiba, Avremel, and Lola soon left Poland because of rumors that



Lola with her mother Taiba in the D.P. Camp

the Russian Army might close the borders and their fear that the Polish couple might steal Lola away from them. They made their way to Germany, beginning their journey in the middle of the night, without saying goodbye to anyone, (including the Polish couple that had cared for Lola) using forged travel papers and bribes to make it to Fahrenwald, a Displaced Persons Camp (D.P. Camp).

Lola's Uncle Tuvia and Zus would make it to America by way of Israel. Her Uncle Asael would be killed after joining the Russian military. Lola's Uncle Walter had immigrated to New



Lola with her Father, Avremel in the D.P. Camp

York before the war, where he sold items from a push cart. He then got into the plastics business and started his own factory. After the war he used D. P. Camp and Red Cross lists to find relatives that had survived the war years. Immigration to America was not easy and required a family member to promise a place to live, a job, and medical coverage. Lola's family, including her sister Bella just 4 years old, who was born in the D.P. camp, came to America traveling in steerage. They landed in Boston Harbor in 1949. Uncle Walter came to Boston, picked them up, and brought them back to New York to start a new life in America.

The Bielski camp would come to Hollywood in the 2008 Ed Zwick-directed feature film *Defiance* starring Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber, based on a book by Necham Tec.



Lola recalled her life in detail, as a hidden child, in a book called the *Hidden Child Book Club Remembers* edited by Susan Gold (published in 2016) which contains recollections of hidden children of WWII. She describes her early childhood in her segment of the book as "a dream that happened long ago to someone I hardly remember." Lola's story and legacy that her children and grandchildren share, will guarantee that her memories will not be forgotten.



Picture taken of descendance of the Bielski Otriad (over 150 present) by director Ed Zwick at The Jewish Heritage Museum in NYC at a private screening of Defiance for family members.

Lola Kline

- Michael Berman

The writer wishes to thank Lola Kline for her generosity and willingness to share her recollections with the JHMOMC for this article.

Feature article source material:

- Interview with Lola Kline
- www. HolocaustResearchProject.org
- Susan Gold editor. *The Hidden Child Book Club Remembers* Full Court Press, Englewood Cliffs New Jersey, 2016
- Learn more about the Bielski Otriad: Peter Duffy, *The Bielski Brothers: The True Story of Three Men Who Defied the Nazis, Built a Village in the Forest and Saved 1,200 Jews*, Harper Perennial 2004
- Nechama Tec, *Defiance: The Bielski Partisans*, Oxford University Press, 1994

## JHMOMC Calendar of Events, Fall 2016 Programs

<b>Sun. Sept. 11</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>David Brahinsky lecture</b> <i>Hannah Arendt: The Origins of Totalitarianism and the Threat of ISIS</i>
	<b>2:30 PM</b>	<b>Roosevelt String Band concert</b> <i>Against Fascism: Songs that Promote Democracy, Toleration, and Peace</i> \$18 members, \$20 non-members
<b>Wed. Sept. 14</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>A talk presented by Keith Glass</b> <i>The Past, Present, Future of Professional Sports</i> \$8 members, \$10 non-members
<b>Sun. Sept. 18</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Speaker: Chris Tashima Film: <i>Visas &amp; Virtue</i></b> Oscar winning director, and actor in this Academy Award winning short film \$8 members, \$10 non-members
<b>Sun. Oct. 16</b>	<b>1:30 PM-3:30 PM</b>	<b>Children's Program: Make and Take Art Journal Workshop</b> Create a quick and easy journal for grownups and children to make and enjoy together. \$10 per person
<b>Sun. Oct. 23</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Oasis Players concert</b> <i>Songs from Jewish Composers at the Oscars</i> \$18 members, \$20 non-members
<b>Sun. Nov. 6</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Wiesenthal</i> -The Play</b> Performed by Harlan Tuckman in the role of Simon Wiesenthal, famous Nazi hunter \$18 members, \$20 non-members
<b>Wed. Nov. 9</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Talk led by Professor Maurice Mahler</b> <i>Gertrude Stein is Gertrude Stein is Gertrude Stein</i> \$8 members, \$10 non-members
<b>Wed. Nov 9</b>	<b>7:30 PM-10:00 PM</b>	<b>Teen Movie Night at the Museum: <i>Everything is Illuminated</i></b> Free of Charge
<b>Sat. Nov. 12</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>A Musical Night at the Museum #2</b> A festive evening of <i>friends, wine, delectable treats, and musical magic.</i> Hosted by Sig Sattenspiel and Alan Wasserman Pricing and Tickets available September 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Sun. Nov. 13</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Wiesenthal</i> -The Play</b> Performed by Harlan Tuckman in the role of Simon Wiesenthal, famous Nazi hunter \$18 members, \$20 non-members
<b>Sun. Dec. 4</b>	<b>11 AM - 3 PM</b>	<b>HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE</b>
<b>Thurs. Dec. 8</b>	<b>4:30 PM-6:00 PM</b>	<b>Children's Program: Make a Ceramic Menorah/Platter</b> To be held at Around the Corner Art Center 290 Mounts Corner Drive, Freehold \$12 per person
<b>Sun. Dec. 11</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Art Topilow and Friends <i>Fascinatin' Rhythm: The Music of George Gershwin</i></b> - Art Topilow, piano, Gary Mazzaroppi, bass, and Annette Sanders, vocalist \$18 members, \$20 non-members
<b>Sun. Dec. 18</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Bimah Players</b> <i>An Afternoon of Yiddish Skits and Songs</i> \$8 members, \$10 non-members

**For more information or to make a paid reservations to any of our events, please call the Museum at 732-252-6990 or visit our website at [www.jhmomc.org](http://www.jhmomc.org).  
Maximum capacity is 100. Paid reservations are recommended.  
Only paid reservations will be held at the Museum and are non-refundable.**



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Monmouth County  
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and is handicapped accessible.



Shana Tova  
to all the members and friends  
of the  
Jewish Heritage Museum of  
Monmouth County

The JHMOMC Board of Trustees



**A Musical Night  
at the Museum #2**  
hosted by  
**Dr. Sig Sattenspiel &  
Alan Wasserman**  
**Join us !**

for a festive evening of *friends, wine, delectable treats, and musical magic* as Dr. Sig Sattenspiel and Alan Wasserman share the stage with a variety of our area's most talented musicians.

**Save the date:**  
**Sat. November 12, 2016**  
**Time: 7:30 pm**

Tickets available September 1<sup>st</sup>  
[www.jhmomc.org](http://www.jhmomc.org) or call the Museum at  
732-252-6990

*Sponsorships and limited premium seating  
packages available.*