

Heritage Highlights

A Publication of THE JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

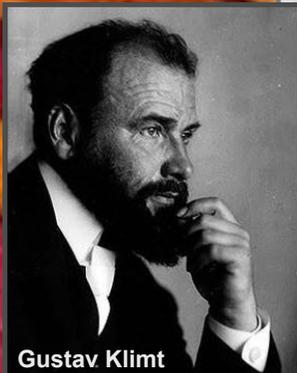
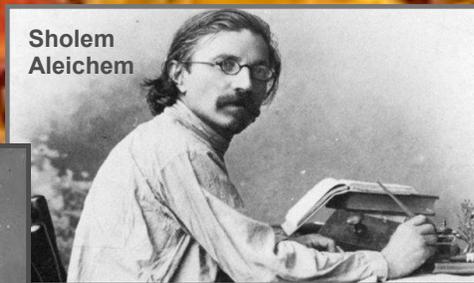
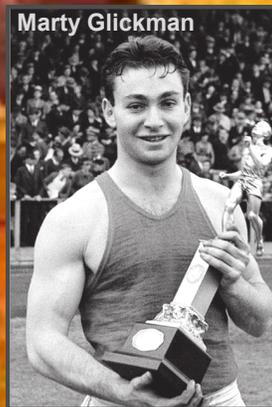
Vol. IX Issue 1 Fall, Sept. - Dec. 2015

Tishrei, Cheshvan, Kislev, Tevet

Autumn Leaves

bring color and variety to the JHMOMC

programs, lectures, demonstrations, concerts and performances,
see inside for what's in store and so much more...



Heritage Leaves: *Help your Museum Grow* pg. 13

Co-Presidents' Message

We would like to express our appreciation, and very best wishes, to the Museum's Administrative Assistant, **Tia Ziagos**, who is leaving us to begin teaching English at a school in South Korea! During her year with us, she has contributed to the success and organization of the Museum. Perhaps her most lasting contribution is the redesign of the Museum's website, just unveiled at the end of August! Tia developed and created this site, which can be edited and updated more easily than before, and it has a new and artistic appearance. Every time we, or a visitor or member finds us on the internet, we will be reminded of Tia's interest and dedication to the Museum. Thank you, Tia, and much success in your new endeavors! In the weeks to come, the Museum will be seeking, and eventually hiring a replacement, and we look forward to introducing a new AA to our members.



We want to wish everyone in the community a Happy, Healthy, and prosperous New Year! L'Shana Tova.

**Alice Berman
Jeffrey Wolf,
Co-Presidents**

Speakers Bureau

Organizations in the Greater Monmouth County area interested in booking any of the Speakers Bureau slide-talk presentations may do so by contacting the Museum at 732-252-6990.

**Barbara Michaels
Speakers Bureau Chair**



Pictured L. to R. - Karen Schneider, Program Director of Brandeis National Committee Middlesex County Chapter; Barbara Michaels, JHMOMC Speakers Bureau Chair; and Hilda Mesnick, Trustee and Speakers Bureau Presenter at East Brunswick Library

Looking for New Trustees

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County is reaching out for new Board Members. We need individuals with experience and knowledge that will benefit our Museum. Areas needed are exhibits, public relations, technology, and fundraising.

If you have any skills to bring to the Museum and would like to serve our community as a Board Member, please contact Hilda Mesnick, Chairperson Nominating Committee, at 732-972-2629.



Many of the Museum's friends and members have inquired about the possibility of receiving *Heritage Highlights* via the internet. If you wish to OPT OUT of receiving your copy of *Heritage Highlights* in regular mail, and would prefer to get your copy online, please call the Museum at 732-252-6990 or contact us at: info@jhmomc.org Please include your full name, home address, and the email address that you would like your copy of *Heritage Highlights* sent to.

Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County

310 Mounts Corner Drive

P.O. Box 7078

Freehold, N.J. 07728

Museum Phone: 732-252-6990

website: www.jhmomc.org

e-mail: info@jhmomc.org

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The JHMOMC is a registered 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization and is handicapped accessible.

Nat Helfand

A WWII Jewish Soldier's Story

In honor of the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII

Nat Helfand was born in Poland on April 9, 1923 and immigrated with his parents, Max and Lilly, to the United States in 1928 at the age of six. His father had been a successful furrier in Poland, a highly respected profession. The family moved to Brownsville, Brooklyn where some family members had already settled. Max left his business in Warsaw and put his life savings in a bank in Brooklyn. With the 1929 stock exchange crash and the beginning of the Great Depression, the Helfand's lives changed like so many others.



Nat and his father, Max

After the birth of twins in 1932, Max, like so many facing the depression, could not get a job. He decided to return to Poland and send money back to the family when he could. He left for Poland in 1932, returning to the United States in 1935, not wanting to be away from his wife and children any longer. Much of Max's family remained in Poland and perished in the Holocaust after the Germans invaded Poland in September of 1939.

Nat met his beloved wife Gloria not long before the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 and America's entry into World War II. He was introduced to her by a cousin and remembers that she lived in the neighborhood. Gloria was a great dancer and they both loved big band music as well as hanging out at Coney Island and sharing a Nathan's original hot dog. Nat wanted to volunteer immediately for military service after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, but he also wanted to choose the service of which he was to be a part. He enrolled in an RCA radio course being offered at City College and enlisted in the United States Army ending up accepting a position in the Signal Corp. The year was 1942 and Nat was 19 years old.



Nat and Gloria's wedding picture, 1943

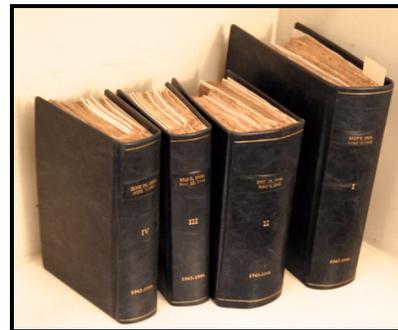
The Signal Corps began in 1860 and participated in the Civil War as a communications focused service, using flags and telegraph lines as well as balloons to help guide wartime

decision making and troop movements. WWI included the first use of airplanes in warfare and further expanded the Corps' responsibility and influence. Radio tube technology and the use of radio telephones were developed and deployed to the battlefield. Future technological advances would lead to radar and wireless radio transmission. It would be in this area

of radio transmission and point-to-point secure high-frequency communication that Nat would find his future in the military.

Nat completed basic training at Fort Dix in NJ. He had to adapt to a non-kosher meal plan when it came to the mess hall where ham and pork were regularly on the menu. From Fort Dix he was sent to Camp Crowder in Missouri for special training in Signal Corps activities, radio repair, and a new form of radio communications called "line-of-sight high frequency transmission." This type of communication created a high frequency voice and signal transmission that could not be intercepted by the enemy. Nat would eventually become part of a six man team dedicated to establishing "line-of-site communication." This included cutting edge technology of the time and required teamwork to achieve secure communications in the field. Nat described the change in warfare in WWII as a "fast moving army that could cover a lot of territory. Trench warfare was a thing of the past." He further commented that "line-of-site communication teams were very much a "band of brothers" and the Army used a "hit and run" style of warfare that could cover 100 miles a day. Secure communications became an integral part of this kind of warfare and allowed for decision making based on intelligence and real world observation of troop movements and changing battle conditions.

While Nat was in Missouri he stayed for a time with a local family, who never met a Jew before. "The Millers were lovely people," Nat recalls, but they had been brought up on Church doctrine, including stories about Christ killing and



4 volume leather bound letters from home and the front

horns on the tops of Jewish heads. Nat is quick to point out that the family was very nice and they did not mean to be disrespectful. They just did not know any better. They had been taught to believe certain things and accepted them without questioning the validity of those teachings. They treated Nat very well

during his stay with them.

Gloria visited Nat in Missouri, but after a time she went back home to Brooklyn, somewhat conflicted since the subject of marriage had come up. Nat asked the advice of the camp chaplain, considering what might be ahead for the young G.I. His advice was to get married and "take whatever happiness you can." Nat sent a telegram for Gloria to come back and they were married in Missouri on December 4, 1943. They spent their wedding night in the Hotel Virginian in Joplin (in a room paid for by his Army buddies) and spent part of the next day in a movie theater enjoying the new film *Babes in Arms* starring Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney.

After his Missouri experience and training, Nat soon found himself in New Jersey's Fort Monmouth in which many communication technologies were being developed, ... including radar.

Continued on page 14

The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents

**Donna Maxon
as Bette Midler**

**Sunday
September 20, 2015
2 PM**



Donna Maxon is a performance artist who pays tribute to Bette Midler by presenting Midler's music, comedy, and unique style. She resembles Midler in looks, voice, and stage presence. Maxon has performed throughout New York and New Jersey and has also appeared on numerous TV shows and commercials.

**\$20 members, \$25 non-members,
\$20 each for a group of 6 or more,
\$72 sponsorship (includes two tickets and
acknowledgement in the program)**

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County
presents

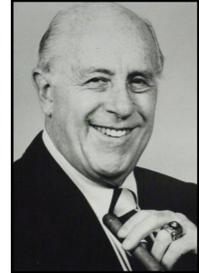


**Bagels, Lox,
and Jewish Jocks**



an interactive discussion
led by Rabbi Brooks Susman
about Jewish athletes who have made a mark for
themselves and for the Jewish people

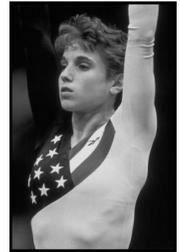
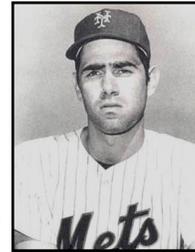
Sunday, September 27, 2015 10:30 AM



Benny Leonard

Red Auerbach

Marty Glickman



Art Shamsky

Kerri Strug

**\$10 members,
\$15 non-members
children free**

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County
presents

We Got A Game

Mah Jong Tournament

**Thursday, October 8, 2015
12 PM - 5PM**

**Gift card prizes
\$25, \$50, \$75, and \$100**

**Kosher Chinese
Buffet Lunch**



The Education Committee of
The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County
presents

Make Your Own Bagel

A bagel-making demonstration and
hands-on-bagel making
for children ages seven and up

**Sunday, October 11, 2015
2:30 PM to 4 PM
\$5.00 per child**

Program to be held at:

**Hole in One Bagel
3701 Hwy 33 (Jumping Brook Plaza)
Neptune, NJ 07753**

**Mr. Dean Ross, Museum Trustee and Owner
Due to limited space, reservations are needed.
Please note that the bagels will not be kosher.**

This program is subsidized by the
JHMOMC Druin Education Fund.

The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents

Only In Terezin/Raphael's Requiem

performed by **Harlan Tuckman and
Judy Spiegel**

Sunday, October 11, 2015 2 PM



This one-act play, which Tuckman co-wrote with Gabor Barabas, is based on the true story of Jewish-Czechoslovak composer, pianist, and conductor Rafael Schachter, an organizer of cultural life in Terezin, the "model" concentration camp near Prague. It depicts his preparation of doomed choir members to perform Verdi's *Requiem* for an audience of Nazi officials.

It depicts his preparation of doomed choir members to perform Verdi's *Requiem* for an audience of Nazi officials.

**\$20 members, \$25 non-members,
\$20 each for a group of 6 or more,
\$72 sponsorship (includes two tickets and
acknowledgement in the program)**

The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents

Dr. David Brahinsky and the Roosevelt String Band in a two part program

Sunday, October 18, 2015



Dr. David Brahinsky

**1 PM Dr. David Brahinsky
presents a lecture
on *Moses Mendelssohn:
The Age of Jewish
Enlightenment***

**2:30 PM David Brahinsky
and the Roosevelt
String Band
present, *Songs of
Enlightenment***

**Performers:
Dr. David Brahinsky,
Noemi Bolton, Guy DeRosa,
Phil MacAuliffe, and Jen Sherry**

**Admission for the afternoon:
\$15 members, \$18 non-members**

The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents

Gustav Klimt: The Golden Art Nouveau

film and discussion

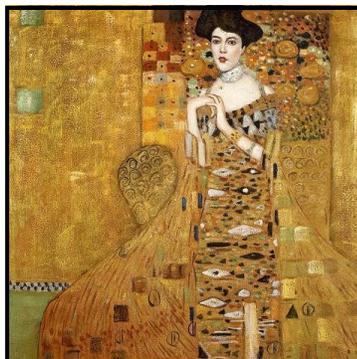
led by

Professor Maurice Mahler



Gustav Klimt

**Wednesday
November 11, 2015
1 PM**



Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer
was featured in the recent
movie, *Woman in Gold*.

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

The Education Committee of
The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County
presents



**Thursday, November 19, 2015
4:30-6:00 PM**

**Around the Corner Art Center
290 Mounts Corner Drive
Freehold Township 07728**

**\$12 per child
(includes all supplies)**

From the Farm to the Theater Monmouth County's Jewish Contribution to the Theater

This is the first in a series of articles on Monmouth County Jewish residents who have made outstanding contributions to the theater. Future articles will highlight the Two River Theater, the New Jersey Repertory Company, the Axelrod Performing Arts Center, and other professional and amateur groups.

When doctors advised Benjamin Peskin to move out of New York City in 1919, he became the first Jewish farmer to reside in Farmingdale (Howell). Following Peskin's lead, by 1930 there were 12 Jewish farming families living in Farmingdale. These pioneering families formed a Jewish Community Center by using personal donations and a generous loan from the Jewish Agricultural Society (JSA). The children of the farmers attended a cultural Jewish school on the weekends, where the teachers traveled from New York City. The National Council of Jewish Women was responsible for sending the New York City teachers to Farmingdale each weekend. The teachers choose to use plays and performances as the method of teaching – the students would learn by performing plays for the local community. The children usually prepared plays

written by playwrights Sholem Aleichem or Isaac Leib Peretz. It was



Sholem Aleichem and Sholem Asch, Belmar, 1915.

During the early 1900s, Belmar was a favorite vacation spot for the New York City intelligentsia, attracting such writers as Morris Hillquit, the Socialist-Labor party leader, and Ira Gershwin, the lyricist, who married one of the daughters of the local Jewish hotel owner. In 1915, Sholem Aleichem and Sholem Asch, pictured, were among the distinguished visitors to this small resort.

from these plays that the children learned about Jewish songs, holidays, and history. As the plays grew in popularity, people from across the New York area began to travel to watch them. Among the audience members was the famous Yiddish novelist and playwright, Sholem Asch.



The old Jewish Community Center, Farmingdale, NJ, erected in 1929. This center was built by the farmers themselves, without architect's plans or blueprints. Benjamin Peskin donated the land and the project was funded by the Jewish Agricultural Society

By 1932, the school was affiliated with the Sholem Aleichem Folk Institute. In Jewish culture, there is a deep connection between plays and educational lessons. Throughout the 1830s, Eastern European playwrights considered themselves to be teachers and they used the theater as a compelling introduction to Jewish tradition. The same way that some of the earliest Jewish playwrights used the theater for education, the teachers of the Jewish farmers' children also used drama to teach lessons. These lessons were not limited to only Jewish celebrations, melodies, and past – but expanded to Jewish culture and tradition.

Monmouth County has transitioned from the farm to the theater over the past 85 years, but has not forgotten its roots. In a 2006 production of *Ragtime* at the Algonquin Arts Theater in Manasquan, a young actor, Matt Lieberman, had a family connection to a Jewish chicken farmer.

Lieberman's great-grandfather, Jacob Greenblatt of Vineland, was a prominent farmer in South Jersey.

**The Jewish Community Center
of Farmingdale**

IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
THE SECOND ANNUAL SERIES
OF

**FOUR EVENINGS OF CULTURAL
AND ARTISTIC ENTERTAINMENT**

ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY EVENINGS
AT EIGHT THIRTY O'CLOCK

SATURDAY, JAN. 11, 1964	BEN ZION GOLDBERG <small>The Jewish Problem in the Soviet Union</small>
SATURDAY, FEB. 29, 1964	THREE FROM JUDEA <small>Folksingers and Folk Dancers</small>
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1964	CHAIM GRADE <small>Poet and Novelist - Yiddish Lecture</small>
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1964	RABBI SHLOMO CARLEBACH <small>Songs Of My Soul</small>

COMPLETE SERIES \$5.00
– REFRESHMENTS –
Tickets for Individual Performances Available

**Farmingdale JCC program cover, 1964
courtesy of Josef Bienstock**

Continued from page 6

The director, Ilene Greenbaum, wrote the connection into the play. Greenbaum also used her own family's immigration story and Jewish background to inspire the actors of her production.

Today in Monmouth County, theater and Judaism are intertwined – from production of plays with Jewish themes, Jewish theater owners, actors, directors, choreographers, to Jewish audience members.

Jessica Herrmann
Summer Intern at the JHMOMC
Attending Dickinson College (Pennsylvania)

For further information about this article and a listing of its bibliographical references, please contact the Museum's history committee at the Museum by phone or email.

The Berkeley Carteret Hotel, "Queen" of Jewish Built and Operated Hotels in Asbury Park



The Berkeley Carteret Hotel - courtesy of Milton Edelman, a retired professional hotel photographer who remembers many fond evenings spent at its bar

Some of the more glamorous hotels in Asbury Park during its heyday as a resort (1920-1950) were owned and operated by Jewish families, and among these, the Monterey, Metropolitan, Harbor Island Spa and the Kingsley Arms, could also claim that a large percentage of their clientele were Jewish. Pictured above is the "queen" of all Monmouth County hotels during this period, the Berkeley Carteret Oceanfront Hotel, an 18 story, beaux art style, luxury hotel named for two British lords who owned a large part of colonial New Jersey. It was built by Arthur C. Steinbach, the son of John Steinbach, the German Jewish immigrant who founded the Steinbach department store empire. When the 420 room hotel opened in 1925, Arthur Steinbach could boast with pride that it represented the height of elegance and sophistication. - **Richard Drazin**

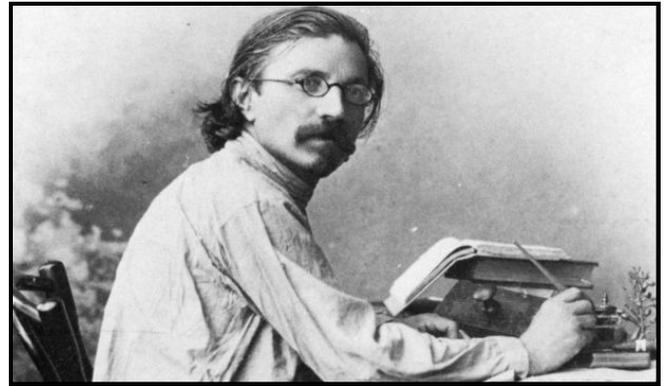
The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents

Sholem Aleichem: More Than Just Fiddler

a talk by

Rabbi Dr. Robert E. Fierstien, Adjunct Professor
of Jewish Studies at Richard Stockton
University and Co-chair of the JHMOMC
History Committee

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 1:30 PM



Sholem Aleichem 1859-1916

Most people know the name Sholem Aleichem because the great musical, *Fiddler on the Roof* is based upon his wonderful stories of Tevya the Dairyman. Nevertheless, Sholem Aleichem was a writer of many talents. In addition to his stories, he also wrote satires, plays and novels, many of which are quite surprising in their poetic beauty and in the way in which they challenge our accepted values.

\$3 members, \$5 non-members

Genealogy... er... Jewish Geography, that I get!



Who's related to whom, who's from the old neighborhood, do they remember Lazy Jenny or Crazy Lenny?

The Museum is looking for someone who knows everyone and is interested in helping to create our Forest of Family Trees and our Community Genealogy Project.

So, if you like to poke your nose into everyone's business, and you are comfortable with a computer and doing some research, we've got the project for you!

Contact Marc Diament at mdiamant@jhmomc.org and let him know you are interested in helping out.

"Jewish Journeys" - A Photography Exhibit

The Museum is pleased to announce the installation of an exhibit of photographs exploring the rich beauty of Jewish locales and objects from around the world. The goal of the exhibit is to display a varied collection of quality photographs which have a connection to Jewish content or theme and that reflect a global Jewish perspective as well as the personal interpretations and vision of the photographers.

Photographers were able to submit up to 10 photos for selection into the exhibit, and between 3 and 10 of each are exhibited. The design of the exhibit was accomplished with the guidance of Arlene Smelson, retired art teacher and curator of exhibits at Change at Brookdale; and the assistance of Lynn Reich, also a retired art educator; Susan Richman language

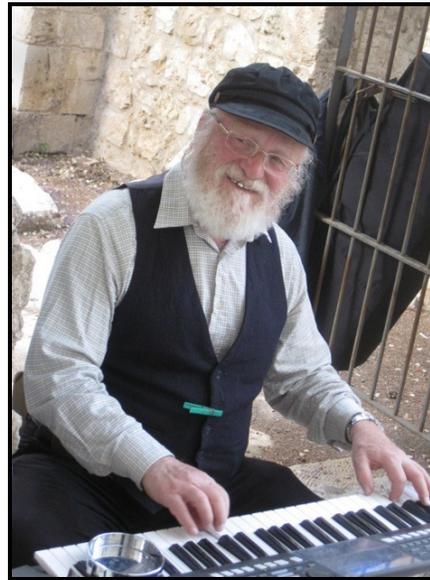


Ellen Rubinstein
Ancient City of Tsfat



Joel Morgovsky
At the Kotel, Jerusalem (2001)

Featured are works by Joel Morgovsky of Lincroft, Faith Wight of Princeton, Simon Zelingher of Marlboro, Ellen Rubinstein of Holmdel, Norman Schwinger of Jackson Township, Phyllis Solomon of Marlboro, Julie Warshawsky of Howell, Rabbi Sally Priesand of Ocean Township, Bernadette Sabatini of Eatontown, and Lynn Katz Danzig whose family is in Little Silver. Each photographer has captured a moment or place with a distinct character and feel that reveals the Jewish identity of the location.



Faith Wight
He Played for a Dollar

educator; and Faith Wight, art educator and photographer. The exhibit will be available for viewing beginning at the end of August, and will be on display through December 2015.

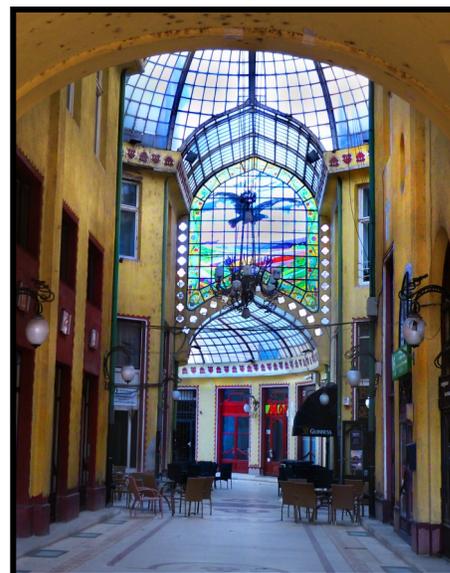
An Artists' Reception will be held on Sunday, September 27th, from 3-5 PM. See the photographs and meet the photographers. (Donations accepted)

- Alice Berman
Co-president



Sally Priesand
King Solomon Restaurant, Prague

While many of the photographs are of sites in Israel, other locales such as Rome, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and St. Thomas populate the display. There are iconic locales including the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and Masada, and unique locations and subjects of hidden streets and bazaars.



Simon Zelingher
Glazed Passage
Oradea, Romania

Jewish Connections

Frequently, when people travel, they search for people and organizations that match their own interests.

In May, 2014, I visited Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. Now a national historic site, Touro Synagogue was dedicated in 1763. It was originally known as Congregation Yeshuat Israel, or the "Jew Synagogue," and it was founded in 1658. In fact, Newport, Rhode Island had the largest concentration of Jews in the colonies. Isaac Touro became its Hazzan.



Touro Synagogue, Newport, RI

During the time of the American Revolution, the British occupied Newport. Thus, most of the Jewish residents left Newport for safer territories. Thankfully, the Synagogue building was not destroyed, as it was used by the British as a hospital. By 1779, the British had departed and many Jewish families returned to Newport. Thus, the Synagogue was not continuously used as a place of worship.

Additionally, Touro Synagogue is famous for another reason. President George Washington planned a visit to Newport, Rhode Island in 1790. In response to a letter sent from the



Touro Synagogue, RI, interior

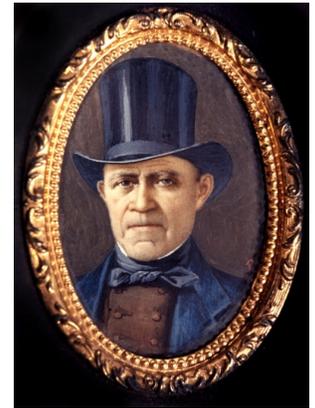
Touro Synagogue president, George Washington replied: "...to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island....It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens...."

This letter to Touro Synagogue is now considered a prelude to the Constitution's First Amendment, as it ensured freedom of religion and separation of church and state.

The Touro family remained involved with the Synagogue throughout this period and made many bequests to it. Thus, in 1822, the Synagogue started to be referred to as Touro Synagogue.

Touro Synagogue is the oldest Synagogue in the United States, but is the second oldest American congregation. Because it had periods when the Synagogue was not functioning as a place of worship, it is not America's oldest Synagogue in continuous use. It now functions as an Orthodox Synagogue.

In January, 2015, I visited New Orleans, Louisiana. Always searching for the nearest Synagogue wherever I travel, I was stunned to see listed: Touro Synagogue of New Orleans. Determined to find out if there was any affiliation, I ventured on a visit to it. This Touro Synagogue was founded in 1828. It is now a beautiful, large, modern Synagogue. Isaac Touro's son, Judah Touro, found his way to New Orleans. Just as his father was a benefactor to the Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, Judah proved to be a very generous man also; he donated to a variety of different organizations. In 1881, two different congregations in New



Aolph Rinck's portrait of Judah P. Touro

Orleans, Louisiana, united to become one. Both congregations had been significantly funded by Judah Touro; thus, the new congregation took the name Touro Synagogue, in Judah's honor. Touro Synagogue of New Orleans is a Reform Synagogue.



Touro Synagogue, New Orleans, LA



Touro Synagogue, New Orleans, interior

Beside the name and the same family involvement, there is no apparent association. However, through travels and research we can each look and find the connection of all Jewish people.

**Carol Fox
Trustee and Co-chair of Publications Committee**

Sources: Finkelstein, Norman H. *American Jewish History*.

JPS: PA. 2007. Print.

George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom.

Touro Synagogue, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Touro Synagogue, Newport, Rhode Island.

More than Chicken Soup: Jewish Contributions to Healthcare in Monmouth County

This is the first in a series of articles on Monmouth County Jewish residents who have made outstanding contributions to healthcare. The author and the Museum's history committee welcome readers' suggestions for names of exceptional physicians, dentists, pharmacists, psychologists, and nurses to include in future articles.

Part I

Introduction - "Maimonides to Monmouth"

The medical field, as it is today, owes a great deal to Jewish contributions throughout history. Approximately one in five laureates of the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology has been Jewish-American. Maimonides

(also referred to as *The Rambam*, a renowned doctor and philosopher/theologian born in Arab-ruled Spain in 1135 (during a time known as "the Golden Age of Arabic medicine"), is widely remembered to this day as a major contributor to medicine. In the United States, just a couple of hours away from Monmouth, the



Moses Maimonides

first volunteer-run hospital in the country, now known as Mount Sinai, was founded in 1855 by the Jewish community of New York City. It was created in response to anti-Semitic discrimination in existing medical centers and was originally called "the Jews' Hospital." Five years earlier, in 1850, the first Jewish hospital in America, The Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, had been founded.

In Monmouth County, Jews are far from absent in the medical field. The Federation in the Heart of New Jersey (the product of the recent merger between the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County and the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County) has an affinity group, the *Maimonides Society*, specifically for local Jewish healthcare professionals. The late Dr. Bruce Metzger, a long-time Marlboro resident, was active in establishing both the group and the Dental Staff at CentraState Medical Center, as well as acting as the president of Monmouth-Ocean County Medical Society.

At Monmouth Medical Center, the oldest hospital in the county, the earliest known Jewish physician to have worked at the center is Dr. Edwin Sternberger, who served as a consulting surgeon at the beginning of the twentieth century and had his own private practice on the shore. Born in New York in 1867 to Simon and Pauline Sternberger, Edwin graduated from the 1890 class of Columbia's medical school, before interning at Mount Sinai Hospital and then at Sloane Maternity Hospital. After leaving the United States to study in Europe, he returned to Mount Sinai as a practicing physician, and later worked at Sloane Maternity as well as at Bellevue Hospital.

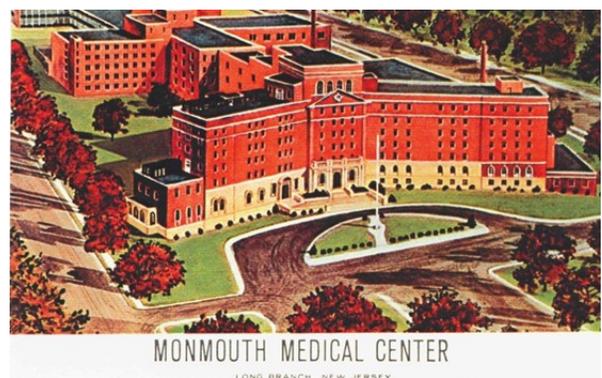


For all the time he lived in New York, Sternberger's affiliation with the Jersey Shore, where he often spent his summers, is strong. There are records of the doctor staying in Long Branch as early as 1900, when he became a director and founding member of the Long Branch Property Owners' Association as a director. Only four years later, the *Red Bank Register* listed him as a consulting surgeon at what was then called the Long Branch Hospital (now Monmouth Medical Center). When Dr. Sternberger passed away in 1924, he had been maintaining private practices in both New York and on the shore.

Part II

Dr. Nicholas Ransohoff

To see the large complex that houses it today, it may be hard to believe that Monmouth Medical Center,



the county's oldest hospital, started out in 1887 as just four rooms located above the *Arnold's Delicatessen* store on Broadway in Long Branch. The rooms had been rented for the treatment of eight poverty-stricken children during an epidemic. Only receiving its current name in 1958, the Center was known in its early days as the Long Branch Hospital and later as Monmouth Memorial Hospital.



Monmouth Medical was founded in 1887 by local businessmen who rented four rooms above Arnold's Delicatessen on Broadway as a clinic where local children could be cared for during an epidemic.

Photo: Courtesy of Monmouth Medical Center

Jewish residents that were tied to the medical field, such as Dr. Edwin Sternberger, helped make Monmouth Medical Center the pride of the county. Notable Jewish medical contributions made at the center also include those made by Dr. Nicholas "Nick" Ransohoff, whose revolutionary - albeit somewhat controversial - polio treatments attracted patients to Monmouth from around the country, and from other parts of the globe as well. While working as an orthopedist at the center, then known as Monmouth Memorial Hospital, Ransohoff saw a devastating outbreak of polio hit Long Branch. Born in Salt Lake City in 1896, Ransohoff had studied at Columbia and worked in New York City, like Sternberger before him, before moving to New Jersey. While in New York, Ransohoff saw the muscle relaxant curare, also known as intercostin, used to treat cerebral palsy, and after seeing a young polio patient suffer similar muscle spasms, decided to use injections of the drug to ease

the patient's suffering. The patient's spasms halted less than ten minutes after receiving an injection, and Ransohoff began to use the treatment for all his polio patients.

However, while popular and widely accepted as an effective treatment, the use of curare met objections from some physicians concerned about its safety. The *St. Petersburg Times* noted that the history of the substance included use as poison on arrow tips, in addition to its more recent roles in medicine. Ransohoff, aware of this, acknowledged in his 1947 speech before the Queens Medical Society paper, "Treatment of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis with Curare and Intensive Physical Therapy," that many people considered curare dangerous, but answered those criticisms by writing that Monmouth Memorial had seen "no fatalities nor ill effects attributable to the drug either directly or indirectly to the drug." Despite the controversy, Ransohoff maintained that the treatment was "a definite ray of light and hope" for victims of polio. Curare was not only celebrated for easing spasms, but recommended as a way to prevent the development of permanent paralysis.

By the time of his death in 1951, at home in Long Branch, Ransohoff had served as Consulting Orthopedic Surgeon at five different New Jersey institutions, three of which were in Monmouth. He also had the distinction of being elected President of the New Jersey Orthopedic Society and holding the title of Director of Orthopedic Surgery at Monmouth Memorial. After his passing, his wife, Priscilla, another doctor and Columbia graduate herself, continued treating polio patients as supervisor of the hospital's physical therapy department.

The hospital was not always so inclusive. In the hospital's first annual report, dated 1889, the President's address concludes with the line "It is to be hoped this enterprise may meet the approval of all fair-minded and Christian men and women, and that God may add His blessing." Regardless of its beginnings, there can be little doubt that Jews such as Dr. Ransohoff have been an important part of Monmouth Medical Center's history.

**- Anna Reich
Summer Intern at the JHMOMC
attending Brandeis University**



Intercostin/intercostrin/intocostrin

Photo: Courtesy of Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

For further information about this article and a listing of its bibliographical references, please contact the Museum's history committee at the Museum by phone or email.

The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents

I Never Saw
Another Butterfly



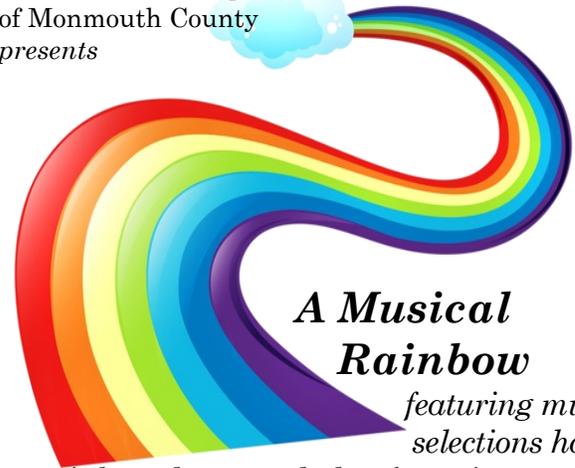
directed by
Jack Rosmarin,
accompaniment
by *Vic Schioppo*,
together with
a group of
local student
performers

Sunday, November 22, 2015 2 PM

This one act play is based on a collection of works of art and poetry by Jewish children who were in the Terezin concentration camp. It is also based upon a book named after a poem by Pavel Friedman, a Terezin prisoner who was later murdered at Auschwitz.

\$10 members, \$15 non-members

The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents



A Musical Rainbow

*featuring musical
selections having*

*a rainbow theme and also featuring musical
selections from Jewish-American composers,
Sherman Edwards (1776), Mitch Leigh (Man
of La Mancha), and Stephen Schwartz (Wicked)*

Sunday, November 29, 2015 2 PM

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

\$18 each for a group of 6 or more,

**\$72 sponsorship (includes two tickets and
acknowledgement in the program)**

The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents



A Hanukkah Concert

featuring

The Jewbadors

The Jewbadors are a Monroeville Township based senior troupe of four musicians and five singers. They all have performed in choral groups, musical groups, as actors and singers in shows, as well as soloists in many Jewish productions and other venues.



Wednesday December 9, 2015 2 PM

\$5 members, \$7 non-members

The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County
presents



SNOWFLAKES IN SONG

Sunday,

December 20, 2015 3 PM

Join us for a magical afternoon of songs that span over two centuries as varied as the snowflakes that fall on a winter's afternoon.

New York based musicians, mezzo-soprano Donna Breitzer, Cantor Joshua Breitzer, and pianist Michael Bronfman will perform this unforgettable recital featuring melodies by Jewish composers as diverse as Robert Schumann, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, Darius Milhaud, and Lazar Weiner, as well as songs from the Great American Songbook

\$20 members, \$25 non-members

\$20 each (groups of 6 or more)

**\$72 sponsorship (includes two tickets and
acknowledgement in the program)**

SAVE THE DATE "WE GOT A GAME" Mah Jong Tournament



The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County is hosting a **Mah Jong Tournament** on Thursday, October 8, 2015, from 12 noon to 5:00 PM, at the Museum. The plan is to seat 80 to 100 players at 20 to 25 tables. A Kosher Chinese Buffet Lunch will be served. Gift card prizes in the amount of \$25, \$50, \$75, and \$100 will be presented to tournament winners. The cost of the event is \$40 per player and is open to both Museum members and non-members.

Some say that Confucius invented Mah Jong, but there doesn't appear to be evidence that the game existed before 1880, though tile games of some form have been found from around 1120 AD in China and Chinese dominoes has been played for centuries. Mah Jong may have been the result of linking Chinese card games and their methodology with the tile pieces.

Mah Jong was brought to America by Joseph P. Babcock who began importing sets in bulk to the USA in 1922. In order to make it a commercial success, Babcock heavily simplified the rules, with many of the interesting intricacies of play being removed. While this was successful for a while, Americans began to embellish the game with the addition of an array of new rules, resulting in American Mah Jong, which is distinctly different from the Chinese, Japanese, and British versions.

Mah Jong was a popular game in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s among Jewish women, for entertainment and social interaction. They "had a game" in apartments in Brooklyn or the Bronx, and during the summer at the bungalow colonies that sprang up in the Catskill Mountains. As Jewish families prospered, they scattered to suburbs seeking a better life for their families, and "having a game" was no longer part of their lives.

Recently there has been a rebirth of Mah Jong especially in the active adult communities. Now it's the Museum's turn! Organized by the Museum's Fund Raising Committee, we are "having a game." Join us for this festive and fun-filled day, and enjoy the game, the conversation, and the nosh - a most Jewish experience!

For more information or to make a reservation, call the Museum at 732-252-6990 or visit www.jhmomc.org. The Jewish Heritage Museum is located in the Mounts Corner Shopping Center at 310 Mounts Corner Drive Freehold, at the corner of Route 537 and Wemrock Road, on the second floor of the historic Levi Solomon Barn. The Museum is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is handicapped accessible.

JOIN OUR LAUNCH A LEAF CAMPAIGN

We have a unique Genesis Tree that grows in the Museum's entrance lobby. It is a beautiful piece of art that greets our friends as they come through our doors. This tree represents the strength and continuity of the Greater Monmouth



Genesis Tree in JHMOMC lobby

County Jewish community as it honors all the benefactors whose names are displayed. Their generosity and loyalty to this Tree is symbolic of the growth the Museum is now experiencing.

Purchasing a leaf is a unique way of recognizing those who are special to us, as well as providing a lasting tribute to deserving and important people in our lives. We hope you will consider this opportunity to help our tree grow by purchasing a LEAF which will serve as a lasting, permanent reminder of your generosity and kindness as it takes its place on our branches.

There are a variety of colors of leaves from which to choose: Copper @ \$90; Silver @ \$180; and Gold @ \$360. These leaves can be inscribed with names of honor, celebration, and memorials.

It takes a village of friends to nurture this special tree. We marvel at how it has grown since it took root in 2008. Please consider adding your strength to the limbs that reach out to our community.

Phyllis C. Solomon
Fundraising Committee Chair

(Continued from page 3) He got away when he could, to be with his new bride in Brooklyn. Finally he was to be deployed to Europe and he said goodbye to Gloria in Times Square and boarded a bus to Camp Shanks, the Army's largest port of embarkation in the United States, in Orangetown, NY. It would take two weeks to make the dangerous crossing of the Atlantic as part of a 25 ship convoy. Nat made it to England, arriving in Liverpool on May 3, 1944, and began further training in preparation for the top secret landing at Normandy Beach and D Day.

Nat's six man team was part of the 980th Signal Service Company, which formed at Fort Monmouth and was charged with providing secure, ultra-high frequency wavelength rapid radio communications to a fast-moving mobile army, utilizing a line-of-site radio signal. Various communication teams had been sent pre-D Day to secret locations, but because of bad weather, Nat found himself on a landing craft, two days after the D-Day invasion. He arrived on Omaha Beach on June 9, three days later.

Nat's company was quickly sent to Cherbourg where they set up their first communications installation, and then on to Le Mans, passing dead soldiers and animals along the way. The fighting was intense. In Cherbourg his team occupied a house which had just been vacated by German soldiers. Snipers were a constant worry and Nat remembers it was hard to sleep, and often took cover under trucks to avoid sniper fire.

Nat's company participated in the Battle of Bulge. His military experiences included close calls and

losses, kindnesses, friendships, and anti-Semitism. Nat recalled such a pivotal moment when two immediate replacements were needed at the front and a known anti-Semite platoon sergeant stated that "we will pick out two New York Jew boys" (Nat being one of them) to go to the front. Two clerks, Mitchell and Hughes who heard the anti-Semitic tone of the sergeant's order, told Nat that if he couldn't pass the physical the next morning he would not have to go. They helped him stay up all night, drink countless cups of coffee and walk around in the freezing cold night air and by the next morning he was running a fever and spent three days in the hospital. He never asked Mitchell or Hughes if they were Jewish, but he believes they were just trying to make up for "what they saw as an injustice."

Nat's unit headed toward Nuremberg where they found the city nearly in total ruin, with civilians searching for food in the rubble. Nat reflects that he felt "only anger and resentment toward the German people" by that time. Nuremberg became a major communication center for the allied forces and on April 13, 1945, sad news reached the troops in Germany. Franklin D. Roosevelt had died. Seventeen days later, with American and Russian troops bombing Berlin, Hitler took his own life. The war in Europe had come to an end.

Nat and his fellow troops immediately began looking forward to going home. After all, they had seen and been part of some of the fiercest and most pivotal battles and fighting in the European theater of war. But it would take a bit longer for them to make it home. General Dwight D. Eisenhower requested that Nat's Signal Service Company be re-located to the Pacific. They ended up in searing heat on the Island of Luzon and set up camp outside of Manila, not really knowing why they were there. The Japanese had surrendered on September 2, 1945 after the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, and the war in the Pacific was over. He believes to this day that it was possibly a military mistake that they were sent there.

In late November of 1945 he and his company finally boarded a ship for home, landing in San Diego in late December. Mr. Helfand finally set foot at Fort Dix, in New Jersey after a cross country trip by train and was honorably discharged on January 4, 1946. He was not yet 23 years old.

Throughout the years, Mr. Helfand has reflected many times about his war years, finally writing his memoirs and self publishing them in 2012. He wanted to be a writer after the war, but with a baby on the way, he took a job in the furrier business (as his father had been). To this day, he takes the bus into New York City once a week (weather permitting) and schmoozes with his old business buddies.

Nat Helfand traveled the world during his war years. He later traveled to Russia and Hong Kong as a direct importer of mink and sable and ran a successful furrier business for many years. He has two children, four grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. He and Gloria will celebrate their 73rd wedding anniversary in December 2015. Nat Helfand has earned his place as part of this country's Greatest Generation of Americans.



Byron, Leo, Henry, and Nat in Southern France, 1945



**Nat and Gloria at home
Nat is holding his memoir, 2015**



**Nat with his medals in his office
at home in Monroe**

He and so many others, Jewish and non-Jewish, came to this country in the early part of the twentieth century to start a new life and persevered through the Great Depression. They honorably served in WWII, defeating the greatest threat to the free world in modern history. They worked hard and started their own businesses, raising their families in a free nation they helped preserve.

We honor them and our history by remembering.

- Michael Berman

The writer would like to thank the following for their participation and support: Nat and Gloria Helfand, JHMOMC Trustee Susan Helfand

Source material: In person interview with Nat Helfand, Reflections and Introspections: a memoir by Nat Helfand **Note:** The term *Greatest Generation* was created by Journalist Tom Brokaw to define those Americans who lived through the Great Depression, served in WWII and went on to build a modern America.

JHMOMC Calendar of Events Fall/Early Winter 2015 Programs

Sun.	Sept. 20	2 PM	<i>Donna Maxon as Bette Midler</i> \$20 members, \$25 non-members, \$20 each for a group of 6 or more, \$72 sponsorship (includes two tickets and acknowledgement in the program)
Sun.	Sept. 27	10:30 AM	<i>Bagels, Lox, and Jocks</i> \$10 members, \$15 non-members, children free
Thurs.	Oct. 8	12 PM	<i>Mah Jong Tournament</i> \$40 per player
Sun.	Oct. 11	2 PM	<i>Only In Terezin/Raphael's Requiem</i> \$20 members, \$25 non-members, \$20 each for a group of 6 or more, \$72 sponsorship (includes two tickets and acknowledgement in the program)
Sun.	Oct. 11	2:30 PM	<i>Make Your Own Bagel Hole in One Bagel</i> 3701 Hwy 33 Neptune, NJ 07753 \$5 per child
Sun.	Oct. 18	1 PM 2:30 PM	<i>Moses Mendelssohn: The Age of Jewish Enlightenment</i> Roosevelt String Band: <i>Songs of Enlightenment</i> \$15 members, \$18 non-members
Wed.	Nov. 11	1 PM	<i>Gustav Klimt: The Golden Art Nouveau</i> \$8 members, \$10 non-members
Wed.	Nov. 18	1:30 PM	<i>Sholem Aleichem: More Than Just Fiddler</i> \$3 members, \$5 non-members
Thurs.	Nov. 19	4:30 PM	<i>Make Your Own Menorah/ Hanukkah Platter</i> \$12 per child (includes all supplies)
Sun.	Nov. 22	2 PM	<i>I Never Saw Another Butterfly</i> \$10 members, \$15 non-members
Sun.	Nov. 29	2 PM	<i>A Musical Rainbow</i> \$18 members, \$20 non-members, \$18 each for a group of 6 or more, \$72 sponsorship (includes two tickets and acknowledgement in the program)
Wed.	Dec. 9	2 PM	<i>A Freileche Yom Tov</i> \$5 members, \$7 non-members
Sun.	Dec. 20	3 PM	<i>Snowflakes in Song</i> \$20 members, \$25 non-members, \$20 each for a group of 6 or more, \$72 sponsorship (includes two tickets and acknowledgement in the program)

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. 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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To purchase a Heritage Leaf described on Page 13, you can call the Museum to order a leaf or complete the Order Form below, detach and mail to the Museum.

There are a variety of colors of leaves from which to choose:
Copper @ \$90; Silver @ \$180; and Gold @ \$360.

You will be notified when your Leaf has been installed.

Thank you for your support of The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County.



Please make checks payable to The JHMOMC, complete the order form below and send it to:
The JHMOMC, PO Box 7078, Freehold, NJ 07728

-- Detach Here - - - - - Leaf Order Form- - - - - Please feel free to copy this form. - -

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

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#of leaves ordered _____ Color(s) of leaf/leaves ordered _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please print clearly using one box per character with a three line maximum.
