

Spring 2010 Volume III, Issue 3

Iyar-Sivan-Tammuz 5770

**Opening
June 1, 2010**

**LIVING
★☆☆★ VOICES**
Jewish War Veterans of WWII

**More
Information
Inside!**

**May 23, 2010
Swing Band
Concert: Music of
WWII**

**June 13, 2010
World War II
Tribute Program**

**June 27, 2010
Film:
"Inheritance"
Helen Jonas Q/A**

Message from the President

While our museum's mission might be easily read, the underpinning of our mission is JEWISH PRIDE. For the two years our museum has been open to the public, we have been unable to secure a place in the Monmouth County Historical Commission's "Weekend in Old Monmouth" which features free museum admission on the first weekend in May.



Although we requested a place in each of the last two years, we were denied. We were told that the reason was that there was a requirement that a museum be open both Saturday and Sunday. Our museum was unable to fulfill this requirement because of our Sabbath closings. Unlike many Jewish museums, our museum felt that we would abide by Jewish customs including being kosher and observing the Sabbath.

Faced with an overwhelming sense of helplessness mired in either bureaucracy or insensitivity it was difficult to believe that our county's historical commission would not put an asterisk by our museum's name in their advertising to identify us as only open on Sunday.

Some people faced with a dilemma of asking for help, believe that whether to ask for help or not as a Jew means that either you will be earmarked as a crier of anti-Semitism or you will be earmarked as a pushover. Actually, we lose both ways!!! Therefore, it is better to stand up for Jewish pride than anything else.

Your museum received assistance from the sole Jewish Freeholder Amy Mallet. Faced with the obvious and knowing that her organization funds the historical commission, Freeholder Mallet wisely chose to forge an alliance with Freeholder Board Director Lillian Burry to change the policy immediately. Therefore, your museum will be on the tour the first Sunday in May. We made friends with both freeholders. Freeholder Mallet will be touring our museum and Freeholder Burry will try to assist us with research about Jewstown in Colts Neck.

Everyone worked together, just the way we always hoped it would be.

*Michael Steinhorn
President
JHMOMC*

May is Jewish American Heritage Month
Visit our exhibit at the Monmouth County
Library Headquarters in Manalapan.

From The Director...

"Being There"

"Being There" to borrow the title from the Jerzy Kozinski penned 1971 novel and 1979 Oscar winning feature film starring Peter Sellers, being there at the JHMOMC over the last 10 months has been a great experience for all those that participated. The museum attendance over the last 10 months has exceeded 4,000 visitors to the museum space and our membership continues to grow as a result.

The late Autumn and Winter months were anything but dark and dreary at the museum. Major exhibitions in the museum included; **The Exhibit: A Journey to Life, Sally Priesand's "A few of my Favorite things" and From Generation to Generation: The Enamel Art of Marylin Druin and Erica Druin.** The museum has come alive over the past year with musical and theatrical performances featured on our Hayloft Stage and the museum's programming committee has featured well attended programs on a variety of subjects such as art, history and a regularly scheduled film series became part of the mix over the last year.

June will be the museum's second anniversary, celebrating our second full year of operations and the JHMOMC's presentation of **Living Voices: Jewish War Veterans of WWII.** The exhibit will take center stage in the Museum's main exhibit hall (see article). Over the last ten months the museum also proudly unveiled the first phase of a dynamic interactive permanent **Timeline Exhibit: A Journey to Monmouth** and **Offsite Programming** and **exhibits** helped educate and spread the word about the JHMOMC and our mission. This has certainly been a year to remember.

On a personal note as I complete my one year commitment as Executive Director of the JHMOMC I wish to thank the museum's Board of Trustees and officers, the Executive committee, all the dedicated and passionate volunteers that make all this possible and, of course, you our membership. **"Being Here"** has been a pleasure and a joy. I continue to look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

Michael Berman - Executive Director

In Memoriam



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Aaron Schlisserman. Aaron was one of the veterans of WWII who had been interviewed for the upcoming WWII Exhibit. Our deepest condolences are extended to his family and all who were privileged to know him.

* The JHMOMC will be installing a brick under the Museum flagpole in honor of his service to his country and participation in our WWII Exhibit.

*The Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth County*

Aaron Schlisserman at home being interviewed by Sid Marshall.

George Segal Lecture

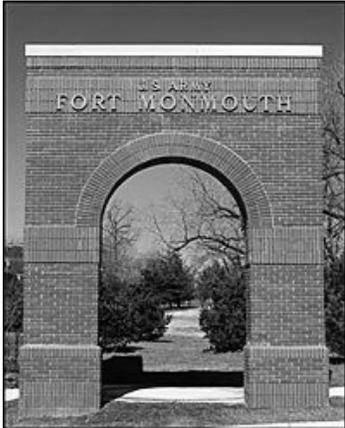
The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County is presenting the third in its series of lectures on famous Jewish Artists on Wed. June 16, 2:00-3:30pm. The lecture is about George Segal known as a sculptor associated with the Pop Art movement. His best known works are cast life size figures and the tableaux the figures inhabit. The lecture and the accompanying visual presentation will be offered by Sandy Gordon. Ms. Gordon has been the coordinator for the art history course at QUEST/City College of NY, an educational institute for retirees, for the past 19 years. She has also given art history courses for Osher at New York University, The Chautauqua Institution, and Elderhostel. The Museum is located at the back of Mounts Corner Shopping Center, Rt. 537, Freehold Township. The Museum is handicapped accessible. Cost is: \$5 (members), \$7 (non-members).

In Feb. the second presentation in our famous artists series was about Louise Nevelson. The presentation was produced by Jean Klerman and presented by Gloria Berman. The pictures and commentaries presented were well received by our audience.

The JHMOMC also sponsored an off-site two part lecture series at Brookdale Community College entitled **"A Passion for Justice: Art and Politics in the Work of Monmouth County Painters Ben Shahn and Grace Graupe-Pillard"**. The slide-talk on the late Ben Shahn was presented by Dr. Geraldine Veslasquez, the one on Grace Graupe-Pillard by the artist herself.

Julie Warshawsky

The History Corner: Fort Monmouth



The closing of New Jersey's Fort Monmouth and its relocation to Maryland scheduled to occur in 2011, will mark the end of an important era in Monmouth County Jewish history. The build-up of the Fort's military and civilian personnel, especially during the 1940's and 50's, had a tremendous impact on the growth of the county's Jewish population as well as offering unique employment opportunities for Jewish scientists and engineers.

The history of Fort Monmouth began in 1917 when the Army first established training camps for signal corps troops and selected the site of the old Monmouth Park Racetrack near Eatontown for one of its training facilities. Its original name, Camp Little Silver, was soon changed to Camp Alfred E. Vail. Vail had been an associate of telegraph inventor Samuel Morse and was credited with helping him develop commercial telegraphy. During World War I, Camp Vail was deeply involved in training telegraph, field signal and depot battalion personnel and eventually given the responsibility for the development of radio equipment and its aerial testing. Camp Vail was also the site of the Signal Corps Pigeon Breeding &

Training Section and perhaps that was the inspiration behind the attempts of Zimel Resnick (a nearby Asbury Park Zionist) to teach Yiddish commands to homing pigeons.

In 1919 the War Department moved all its Signal Corps schools to Camp Vail and in 1925, the Camp was designated as Fort Monmouth in honor of the men and women who fought at the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse (Freehold) during the American Revolution.

Even before the actual outbreak of World War II hostilities, the U. S. Army Signal Corp at Fort Monmouth underwent a tremendous growth of personnel and facilities in complying with the preparedness goals of the National Defense Program. In the late 1930's the Fort's civilian staff increased five-fold, as scientists and engineers, many of whom were Jewish New York City College graduates, moved into the area, finding employment opportunities in government service heretofore denied them in private industry. The old Kaplan Memorial Theatre at Fort Monmouth was named for the late Major Benjamin Kaplan, a Jewish post engineer, who planned and supervised much of the construction carried out at the Fort.

After Pearl Harbor, military activity intensified still further at the Fort as it expanded (acquiring Camp Charles Wood and Camp Edison) to accommodate additional Signal Corps replacement training personnel. In addition, the Corps established three field laboratories during 1940 and 1941 at Camp Coles (just west of Red Bank), the Eatontown Signal Laboratory, and Camp Evans. These wartime laboratories developed FM backpack radio, FM radio relay and Radar along with many other inventions. Over 14,000 military and civilian personnel were working at these laboratories in December 1942.

Since many of the thousands of soldiers stationed at the forts and the various anti-aircraft units throughout the county were from the New York metropolitan area, a substantial number of Jewish men were among them. From all accounts, a preponderance of the physicians and dentists assigned to the forts were Jewish. At first, active military chaplains, such as Rabbi Abraham Haselkorn, served at Fort Monmouth but as the war progressed and Army chaplains were sent overseas, local rabbis, such as Red Bank's Arthur Hershon were called upon.



Camp Evans Signal Laboratory, Belmar, NJ 1943

Jewish soldiers were excused from duty to attend services and kosher food was made available for the observant. Leon Rosenfeld, a draftee in the early 40's who settled in Little Silver after the war, recalled that on the average 45-50 men assembled for Friday evening services, marching in company by company. The Jewish Community Center in Long Branch served as a central clearing house for directing Jewish soldiers to the Hollywood Hotel in West End or to nearby homes for Sabbath or holiday dinners and an annual seder was held at the center for the military. Individuals and groups such as SCAR (Shore Committee for Army Recreation) organized to entertain the troops. Local soirees, parties and dances were held all over the county and not surprisingly many servicemen married local girls.

In October of 2009 a dozen Jewish retirees met at the JCC in Deal to discuss their experiences at the Fort. If you or someone in your family worked as a scientist, engineer, or technical and clerical support personnel at the Fort, please contact Jean Klerman at the JHMOMC 732-252-6990 to sign up for our next informational gathering meeting, the date of which is still to be determined.

Jean Klerman - Scholar-In-Residence

Living Voices



WWII Tribute Event

June 13, 2010
Honor our Veterans

Please join us as we pay tribute to our veterans on June 13, 2010 at 2pm.

The program will include the following:

- ★ JWV Honor Guard
- ★ A tribute to our "Living Voices" veterans (Featured veterans will be in attendance).
- ★ A Musical Tribute to the WWII great American songbook by Beth Burns and Vic Schioppo featuring Brenda Schofeld and Jamiam Berkal
- ★ A delectable assortment of tasty treats will also be served.

Don't miss this meaningful and entertaining event. Space is limited. A donation of \$18 is requested. Please call the JHMMC at 732-252-6990 for further information or send a check payable to the JHMOMC with attendees names and the number of tickets requested to the JHMOMC, PO Box 7078, Freehold, NJ 07728. All reservations must be received by June 18, 2010. (Tickets will be held at the Museum). Walk-ins accepted if space permits.



Helen Jonas To Speak At Museum

Helen Jonas, who was portrayed in Schindler's List, as the house maid to Nazi SS Officer Amon Goeth, will speak and take questions after a showing of the film, "**Inheritance**". The film chronicles the face to face meeting between Helen Jonas and Monika Hertwig, Goeth's adult daughter, who was a baby at the time of Helen's enslavement.

"**Inheritance**" is ultimately a portrait of two brave women, who bear witness to an unchangeable past, in the name of a better future. Please mark your calendars for this special program. Sunday, June 27th at 1:00 pm, \$15 members, \$18.00 non-members. Space is limited. Please call the JHMMC at 732-252-6990 for further information or send a check payable to the JHMOMC with attendees names and the number of tickets requested to the JHMOMC, PO Box 7078, Freehold, NJ 07728. All reservations must be received by June 18, 2010. (Tickets will be held at the Museum). Walk-ins accepted if space permits.

Georgine Eberight



The **feature film** based on the Tony award winning 1969 Broadway musical stage production by Peter Stone (book) and Sherman Edwards (music and lyrics)

Celebrate the Birth of our Nation and the JHMOMC's connection to our Revolutionary history. The story, inspired by events leading up to the signing of July 4th 1776, lyrically and humorously (New Jersey is mentioned frequently) teaches us a bit about the struggles and compromises that went into the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of our nation.

Actors featured in the film version include: William Daniels (John Adams) Howard De Silva (Benjamin Franklyn) and Ken Howard (Thomas Jefferson)

The film will be shown Thursday July 1st 2010 at 7pm (refreshments will be served)

Tickets: \$5.00members, \$7.00 non members and students free
The JHMOMC is air conditioned and fully handicapped accessible.

Jewish Heritage Museum
of Monmouth Country
310 Mounts Corner Drive
P.O. Box 7078
Freehold, N.J. 07728
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e-mail: info@jhmomc.org

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michaelberman@jhmomc.org

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WWII Era Swing Band Concert

May 23, 2010 at 2pm



Swing into spring with the sounds of classic WWII era big band arrangements and songs as the Colts Neck Swing Band returns to the Hayloft Stage on May 23rd 2010 at 2pm as part of the JHMOMC's salute to Monmouth County's Jewish war veterans.

Music made famous by Jewish bandleaders Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Harry James and Woody Herman (among others) that inspired a nation and entertained the troops will be featured in this kick off to the **Living Voices: Jewish WWII veterans** exhibit opening on June 1st 2010.

The war years (1941 to 1945) were a time of great anguish and heroism for the United States as young men and women joined the fight to protect freedom and democracy from an unspeakable fate. Victory would require the ultimate sacrifice from so many and a nation would find itself polarized by world conflict. Through it all, music and song would elevate the spirits of the country and rally the troops. Join us and musically relive a time that still inspires.

The Colts neck Swing band will perform at 2pm. Concert tickets are \$12.00 for members and \$14.00 for non members (Refreshments will be served). The JHMOMC is a fully handicapped accessible facility and a registered 501 (c)3 non profit organization. Tickets will be available at the door and seating is general.



Live Performances Light Up the Hayloft Stage Winter 2009-2010



The Echos



Michael Magenta
in "Fat Selfish Bastard"

Not pictured: "Kovalsky and Friends" concert featuring Katha Zinn, violin and Illya Filshtinskiy, piano



David Brahinsky and Friends



Priesand Exhibit: 'A Few Of Her Favorite Things' Enthralls Visitors

A splash of sunshine during the county's harshest winter in years was "A Few of My Favorite Things," the JHMOMC's exhibit dedicated to the historical memorabilia of Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, America's first female rabbi. The exhibit ran from February 10 through March 16 and featured a wide array of letters, gifts, photographs and other artifacts of historical and personal significance gathered by the rabbi during her 37 years in the rabbinate.

Snow postponed the gala opening reception until February 17, but didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the guests in attendance who got the first glimpse of the intriguing, never-before-seen collection. JHMOMC President Michael Steinhorn delivered opening remarks, noting Rabbi Priesand's pioneering role in Judaism in America as well as her impact on the local synagogue she led for 25 years. He also acknowledged her contributions to the Monmouth County community as a committee/board member of various human rights organizations, and her strong support of the JHMOMC as an active museum trustee.

On Sunday, February 21, Rabbi Priesand delivered a presentation titled "Reflections on My Life as a Rabbi." Surrounded by her "favorite things" and using some to illustrate her enlightening remarks, she delighted and inspired those gathered by blending memories and philosophy with candid observations and just a hint of sermon. Her words, often humorous and always heartfelt, proved to be a fascinating window into a thoughtful and dynamic woman whose tradition-breaking career was accompanied by opposition from many sides at the start, but who ultimately has lived her life true to her goals, her heritage and herself.

All proceeds from the Priesand exhibit and its related events, including the generous matching funds donated by friends of Rabbi Priesand, have been designated to support the Museum's permanent Timeline exhibit, the first stage of which is now on display in the Barn.



Rabbi Sally Priesand

Sandy Halbstein

Druin Enamel Art Exhibit a Critical and Popular Success



Erica Druin

"Exquisite" was the word heard most often at the JHMOMC's recent exhibit of enamel jewelry and sculpture titled "**From Generation to Generation: The Enamel Art of Marilyn and Erica Druin.**" The mother-daughter works of art displayed included pendants, necklaces, goblets, brooches, cups, bowls and sculpture all superbly crafted and many of which were embellished with precious metals and jewels. Several of the sculptures, such as the Bird's Nest No. 2 were created in collaboration with metalist Michael Good. The exhibit, with its March 21st opening reception and its subsequent lectures and workshops, proved an enormous critical and popular success.

At the opening, Ulysses S. Grant Dietz, Senior Curator and Curator of Decorative Arts at the Newark Museum, paid glowing tribute to the late Marilyn Druin whose works are represented in numerous museums and private collections. On April 11, Marilyn's daughter, Erica, presented an informative and fascinating slide-talk on the history of enameling and the major enameling techniques used by both she and her mother. Erica and Pat Heaney presented a children's enamel workshop on April 18. Erica and her sister Lauren Druin Griffin plan to conduct a workshop for adults at the Newark Museum on April 25. Dr. Geraldine Velasquez, Professor of Art and Design at Georgian Court University, spoke eloquently of Marilyn Druin as an artist and friend at both the opening reception and at Erica Druin's lecture. Dr. Velasquez also composed most of the exhibit's text. Museum director Michael Berman, Exhibit Committee Co-Chairs Georgine Eberight & Marc Diament, and Education chair Cheryl Ingerman and their committees and the Museum's volunteer support staff are all to be thanked for their enormous effort in producing this artistic triumph.

The JHMOMC has received a generous gift from former Museum Trustee Mel Druin and his family for the establishment of the Marilyn Druin Memorial Education Fund to support educational initiatives for children at the Museum in the areas of history, religion and fine arts. To contribute to this fund, please make checks payable to Marilyn Druin Memorial Education Fund.

Jewish Heritage Museum Celebrates National Jewish Heritage Month at the Monmouth County Library System



L. to R. Jean Klerman, Museum Co-founder and Scholar-In-Residence, Janet Kranis, Branch Librarian and JHMOMC President, Michael Steinhorn

In celebration of National Jewish Heritage Month, the JHMOMC will present two month-long exhibits and four Wednesday programs describing the early history of Monmouth County's Jewish residents at various branches of the Monmouth County Library System during April and May. The Museum's exhibit on 18th century Monmouth County Jewish history will be at the MCL Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury during April and thereafter will travel to the MCL Headquarters in Manalapan for the month of May.

May 12 – "The Jewish Newport on the Jersey Shore: The History of the German-Jews of Monmouth County"

(Civil War era till WWII). A free slide-talk.

2:00-3:30pm - Ocean Township Public Library, 701 Deal Road, Oakhurst, N.J. 07755- 732-531-5092

7:00-8:30pm - Eastern Branch, 1001 Route 35, Shrewsbury, N.J. 07702 732- 683-8980

May 26 – "A Journey To Monmouth: 1600-1800" A free two-part slide-talk. Monmouth County Library Headquarters, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, N.J. 07726 - 732-431-7242

10:30am-12 noon – Part I. Coming to America

1:30pm-3:00pm - Part II Settling in Monmouth

JHMOMC Calendar of Events - Spring 2010

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(Civil War EWra till WWII) A Free Slide-Talk

2:00-3:30pm-Ocean Township Public Library, 701 Deal Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755 732-532-5092

7:00-8:30pm-Eastern Branch, 1001 Route 35, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702 732-683-8980

May 23 (Sunday) 2:00pm Colts Neck Swing Band-Celebrating the music of WWII (\$12 members, \$14 non-members, \$5 students)

May 26 (Wednesday) "A Journey to Monmouth: 1600-1800" A free two-part slide-talk. Monmouth County Library Headquarters, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726 732-431-7242

10:30am-12 noon - Part 1 Coming to America

1:30 pm-3:00pm - Part II Settling in Monmouth

June 6(Sunday) 11:00am Annual Meeting Program: Cantor Menorah Winston featured in song as a tribute to Sally Priesand

June 13 (Sunday) 2:00pm World War II Tribute (suggested donation \$18)

June 16 (Wednesday) George Segal lecture (\$5 members, \$7 non-members)

June 27 (Sunday) Film: "Inheritance" followed by Helen Jonas Q and A (\$15 members, \$18 non-members)

July 1 (Thursday) Film: "1776" (Musical) (\$5 members, \$7 non-members, students free)

July 25 (Sunday) WWII Program: The Norden Broadcast -America's Ace in the Hole Lecture: J. Wandress

August 1 (Sunday) Film: "The Great Escape" Talk: Larry Wigdortz (\$5 members, \$7 non-members)

The Jewish Heritage Museum is open to the public on Sundays 11:00am - 3:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am– 3:00pm.

Jewish Heritage Museum Of
 Monmouth County
 P.O. Box 7078,
 Freehold, NJ 07728

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Living Voices WW II
Buy a Brick Fund Drive



Honor a Veteran of any war or just give your support for the JHMOMC's commitment to telling the story of Monmouth County's Jewish residents and their contributions to our County and our World.

Each Brick is "4"x 8" with each character being 3/4". There is a 3 line maximum with 13 characters per line including spaces and punctuation. Specific placement of the bricks cannot be guaranteed and management reserves the right to determine the final wording on bricks.

Brick purchase includes 2 free tickets to the June 13th Tribute Event and free admission to view the exhibit during regular Museum hours.

Please fill out the order form below and mail it along with a check to the JHMOMC for \$165.00

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County Inc is non-profit organization pursuant to Internal Revenue Service code 501 (C)(3). All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Your cancelled check and this article will serve as your receipt.

Please note that each brick you purchase must have its own order form. Please feel free to duplicate this page.

Buy a Brick Order Form (\$165.00)

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