Heritage Highlights

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

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Yohanan Perry, Donor

Jews of India Exhibit wall display of the Bene Israel group

In This Issue:

The Sacknowitz Family and Congregation Ahavat Olam. . . . . Page 3
The Joy of Jewish Journaling . . . . . Page 4
Jewish Connections. . . . . Page 5
The Jews of India. . . . . Page 7
Upcoming Events. . . . . Page 12
Calendar of Events. . . . . Page 14

President's Message

Alice Berman
President

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope everyone had a delightful Hanukkah with family and friends, and I extend best wishes for the new year. December was a jam-packed month at the Museum, which included the opening of our new exhibit, *Jews of India: The History and Practices of the Bene Israel, Cochin, and Baghdadi Jews.* You can read about, and see photos of this event in the pages of this newsletter. It is worth a special visit to have time to explore the exhibit and the unusual history and objects that are on display. Bring others with you!

As Hanukkah began, we held an Open House with make-and-take crafts for children, and a chance to visit with our Executive Director. On December 25th, we hosted the klezmer group, T-Klez, which presented Hanukkah and other songs in several languages - Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and English. All the events were well attended and it reinforces the goal of making the Museum the community's hub of Jewish culture, history, and heritage, regardless of synagogue affiliation.

Another way to ensure the success of the Museum is to become a paid up member each year. If you have not become a member, or have let your membership lapse, this is a good time to "re-up" and be a part of the Museum family. There is a little discount on each admission to the Museum or events, and you will know that you are helping to sustain this core piece of the Jewish community. You will find a membership form in this newsletter as well.

We hope to see you at programs and events during the year - check our calendar and website for upcoming films, talks, and musical programs, and come often to be enlightened and entertained. See you at the Museum!

- Alice Berman
President, Board of Trustees

Executive Director's Message

As 2020 begins, I want to acknowledge the Museum's supporters who have contributed toward our many successes during the past year. I want to extend a special thank you to Jean Klerman and her family for making donations to the Museum in honor of Jean's 88th birthday, and designating those funds to support my position. Everything the Museum does is made possible by members and donors who invest in our work and mission. The community members' involvement in volunteering, whether as docents or on a committee, demonstrates dedication to preserving the Past and Present for the Future.

Executive Director,
Jessica Solomon

In 2020, the Museum will continue to serve the community through programs, publications, and exhibits that focus on the arts, culture, and Jewish heritage. By being the repository of shared knowledge of Monmouth County's unique history, it is our duty to create a quality experience for visitors to hear those stories and expand their knowledge. Some of the new programs this spring will mirror our new exhibit, *Jews of India: The History and Practices of the Bene Israel, Cochin and Baghdadi Jews*, which has received attention from international and local news media. On behalf of the Museum, I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and hope that we see everyone this year at the Museum!

- Jessica Solomon
Executive Director

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The Sacknowitz Family and Congregation Ahavat Olam, Howell Township

Harold Sacknowitz, whose family moved its plumbing business from New York to Howell Township in 1946, played a pivotal role in the renovation of Congregation Ahavat Olam in the early 1980s. It was his leadership and labor that transformed the synagogue's sanctuary and classrooms into a facility that could meet the needs of a growing suburban Jewish community. The present Conservative Congregation Ahavat Olam/JCC (established by a merger of Congregation Ahavat Shalom of Lakewood and Congregation Ahavat Achim of Howell) in 2010, now serves Western Monmouth and Ocean Counties with a large array of religious, educational, and social programs.

Dedication plaque originally placed in one of the rooms of Congregation Ahavat Olam

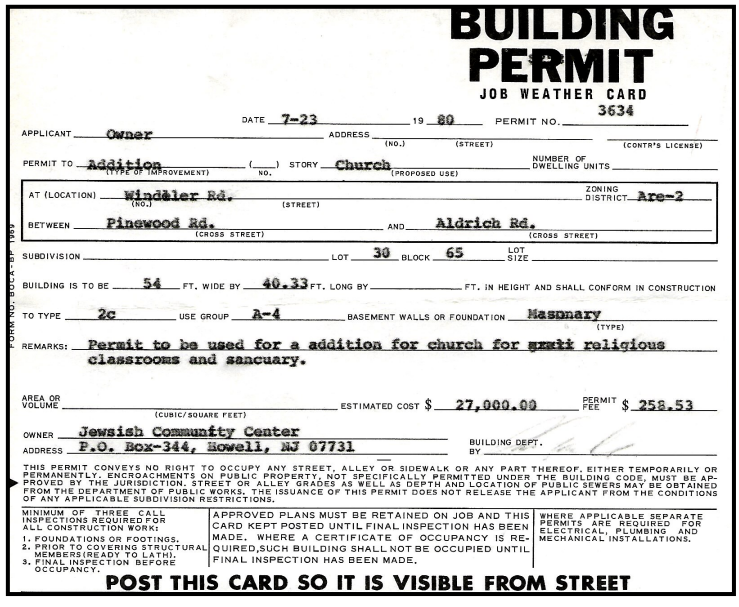
Harold's father, Irving Sacknowitz, was born in Belarus in 1907, traveling to America with his sister Rose in 1923. His parents and three older brothers had arrived earlier. Irving was listed on the passenger list as a shoe maker and had all of $20 in his pocket when he arrived at Ellis Island. He married in 1928 in Manhattan and he and his wife Goldie had five children. Harold, the oldest, was born in Brooklyn in 1930. Irving took many jobs while living in Brooklyn trying to support his family. The 1930 Census shows him as a blacksmith and records in 1943 identify him as a chauffeur. Soon after, he started his own plumbing business.

Wedding photograph of Goldie Sklar and Irving Sacknowitz, June 20, 1928, New York City (Courtesy of Lisa Adams)

In 1946, the family decided to move to Farmingdale, NJ where they had a farm on Yellowbrook Road and it was there that their plumbing business started to flourish. In 1961, Irving passed away from a sudden heart attack, leaving Harold to take over. Harold hadn't had much schooling and couldn't read or write. Yet this lack of knowledge did not stop him from successfully continuing his father's plumbing business.

I. Sacknowitz & Sons plumbing business trailer (Courtesy of Lisa Adams)

He owned Jersey Shore Plumbing and Heating and a supply company, Marren Equipment on Highway 33 in Freehold. Harold married Helen Taikeff in 1967; their son Ira was born in 1969, and twins Lisa and Lori in 1971. Harold also doted on his nieces and nephews and gave many of them jobs in the family business. He was a talented cook and was responsible for doing the majority of the cooking at Congregation Ahavat Achim events.



BUILDING PERMIT

JOB WEATHER CARD

DATE 7-23 19 80 PERMIT NO. 3634

APPLICANT Owner ADDRESS (NO.) (STREET) (CONTR'S LICENSE)

PERMIT TO Addition (TYPE OF IMPROVEMENT) (NO.) STORY Church (PROPOSED USE) NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS

AT (LOCATION) Windeler Rd. (NO.) (STREET) ZONING DISTRICT Are-2

BETWEEN Pinewood Rd. (CROSS STREET) AND Aldrich Rd. (CROSS STREET)

SUBDIVISION LOT 30 BLOCK 65 LOT SIZE

BUILDING IS TO BE 54 FT. WIDE BY 40.33 FT. LONG BY FT. IN HEIGHT AND SHALL CONFORM IN CONSTRUCTION

TO TYPE 2c USE GROUP A-4 BASEMENT WALLS OR FOUNDATION Masonary (TYPE)

REMARKS: Permit to be used for a addition for church for ~~xxxx~~ religious classrooms and sancuary.

AREA OR VOLUME (CUBIC/SQUARE FEET) ESTIMATED COST $ 27,000.00 PERMIT FEE $ 258.53

OWNER Jewsish Communfty Center

ADDRESS P.O. Box-344, Howell, NJ 07731 BUILDING DEPT. BY

THIS PERMIT CONVEYS NO RIGHT TO OCCUPY ANY STREET, ALLEY OR SIDEWALK OR ANY PART THEREOF, EITHER TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY. ENCROACHMENTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, NOT SPECIFICALLY PERMITTED UNDER THE BUILDING CODE, MUST BE APPROVED BY THE JURISDICTION. STREET OR ALLEY GRADES AS WELL AS DEPTH AND LOCATION OF PUBLIC SEWERS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. THE ISSUANCE OF THIS PERMIT DOES NOT RELEASE THE APPLICANT FROM THE CONDITIONS OF ANY APPLICABLE SUBDIVISION RESTRICTIONS.

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1. FOUNDATIONS OR FOOTINGS.
2. PRIOR TO COVERING STRUCTURAL MEMBERS (READY TO LATH).
3. FINAL INSPECTION BEFORE OCCUPANCY.

APPROVED PLANS MUST BE RETAINED ON JOB AND THIS CARD KEPT POSTED UNTIL FINAL INSPECTION HAS BEEN MADE. WHERE A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IS REQUIRED, SUCH BUILDING SHALL NOT BE OCCUPIED UNTIL FINAL INSPECTION HAS BEEN MADE.

WHERE APPLICABLE SEPARATE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL INSTALLATIONS.

POST THIS CARD SO IT IS VISIBLE FROM STREET

Building Permit for addition to Congregation Ahavat Achim, 106 Windeler Road, Howell, NJ (Courtesy of Lisa Adams)

Voted man of the year 1979-1980 in the Men's Club, Harold took on the huge responsibility for supporting the addition to Ahavat Achim Synagogue in 1980. He passed away in 1988, like his father, from a sudden heart attack.

- Lisa Sacknowitz Adams
Member, History Committee

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Does your organization, synagogue, club, or other group need an exciting, stimulating, informative presentation for one of its future meetings? We urge you to consider one of the programs available through the Museum's Speakers Bureau. We are very proud and eager to showcase our programs which are meticulously researched and created by our talented volunteers. Besides being a wonderful source of information about Jewish achievement in Monmouth County and beyond, they also serve as an introduction to our wonderful Museum and its resources.

The Museum can also install small exhibits offsite.

JHMOMC History Committee Co-Chairs Rabbi Robert Fierstien and Jean Klerman with Linda Forgosh, Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, at Ms. Forgosh's slide-talk presentation on *Louis Bamberger and the Rise of the Jewish Community in Newark* at the Shore Area JCC, Deal, Oct 23, 2019

The Bureau is always in need of volunteers to present our programs or lend technical support. If you would like to assist, we NEED YOUR TALENTS!

Programs available:

-Journey to Monmouth: From the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) to the New World

- The Story of the Jews in Monmouth County: In Town, at the Shore, on the Farm

- 18th Century Monmouth County Jews: Colonial and Revolutionary Times

- The Jewish Newport at the Jersey Shore: The History of the German Jews of Monmouth County

- Back to the Land: The Story of the Jewish Farmers of Greater Monmouth

- The Golden Medinah: A Story of Eastern European Jewish Immigration to America

- Louise Nevelson: Grand Dame of American Sculpture

- George Segal: The Artist from a Jewish Perspective

- Faces of Genius: Jewish American Nobel Prize Laureates in Science and Medicine

The PowerPoint programs range from 30 minutes to 75 minutes in length. For more information about the programs or to book one for your group call the Museum at 732-252-6990.

- Barbara Michaels
Speakers Bureau Chair

The Joy of Jewish Journaling

This January the JHMOMC's Jewish Journaling group will begin its fourth year. Who could have imagined that what began as a six week workshop would be continuing on into 2020? Our group has had some changes; people come and we welcome them, people go and we miss them. Some come only occasionally, others frequently, and some come once just to see what Jewish Journaling is all about. We welcome all, and we hope if you're reading this you'll think about joining us one Tuesday morning. In Jewish Journaling, we write memories of the past, thoughts about the present, and hopes and dreams for the future. We write about holidays, customs, family traditions, foods we love, places we shop, things our parents and grandparents gave us, and the things we want to leave for our children. We use the Museum and its wonderful displays, artifacts, and information as a muse and sometimes we write about that. We tell our stories and the stories of our ancestors, if we know them, and the stories of the future as we might imagine it. You don't have to be a "good" writer to join us. It's not about the writing. It's not about grammar, punctuation, or spelling. We use quick, easy and, hopefully, inspiring writing prompts that make journal writing enjoyable and meaningful.

Members of the Jewish Journaling Group Center: Michele Klausner, Facilitator

Sometimes we even take field trips. Last spring our group met at Mattison Crossing Assisted Living and we enjoyed meeting and writing with some of the residents there.

In response to the writing prompt: "What is one of your earliest memories of being Jewish?" one of our group members wrote the following:

> My earliest memory of being Jewish was the large seders we used to have. The table going from the dining room through the hallway into the living room. Little by little the table got shorter. Family and friends passed away. Now we have seders in rehabs and nursing homes. It's a sad memory but also a sweet and memorable one.
>
> Elaine Cohen

Jewish journaling helps us capture those precious memories. Join us Tuesday mornings from 10:30 – Noon, in our beautiful Museum space and share your own memories with us. The cost is $5.00 per session.

- Michele Klausner, Jewish Journal Facilitator

Jewish Connections

Members of Marlboro Jewish Center's Congregation visiting the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York

The New York City Museum of Jewish Heritage is presenting a traveling exhibition from the Auschwitz concentration camp, *Auschwitz: Not Long Ago. Not Far Away.* This is the first time a traveling exhibit from the horrific concentration camp exists. The Museum, ironically, stands within view of the Statue of Liberty. This exhibit of Auschwitz is not a particularly pleasant one, but it is a must-see for everyone. Its historical value is endless. Perhaps if all people saw what horrors hatred can cause, hatred would cease.

In late October of 2019, I visited the exhibition with Monmouth County's Marlboro Jewish Center, Congregation Ohev Shalom. The Congregation traveled as a group and filled more than two busloads of adult and student members. Luckily, the Congregation's Rabbi, Rabbi Michael Pont, and the Associate Rabbi, Rabbi Ron Koas, accompanied our group. Their presence not only gave a sense of security, but they were also able to address our many questions and feelings. The Museum supplied our group with personal tour guides and also arranged a private discussion with a survivor, Jerry Lindenstraus. Mr. Lindenstraus was delighted to see such a large group from one Synagogue. Perhaps it provided for him proof of Jewish survival. Primarily, we attended as a community. In a place that depicts such hatred and evil, a sense of community certainly brought comfort.

When one initially approaches the Museum, one encounters an original cattle car. Then, the exhibit begins with authentic concrete posts and barbed wire that came from the Auschwitz concentration camp. The exhibit proceeds in chronological order, following the unbelievable path of this evil. Included in the exhibition are many personal belongings of the persecuted such as luggage, eye glasses, shoes, pictures, jewelry, clothing, and personal items of hope which are particularly gut wrenching. One item is a crude chess set that was made at the prison. There also is a heart-shaped booklet, entitled *The Heart of Auschwitz* which was made at the prison for a fellow captive's birthday. Additional prisoner belongings were sent to an area called "Kanada."

Nazi propaganda posters are also included in the exhibit, along with prisoner uniforms and the uncomfortable wooden clogs that were provided, if the prisoner was lucky enough to receive any shoes. Original wooden bunks that were in Auschwitz are on display, as well as a huge cauldron that held the watery soup that was served to the prisoners. Additionally, the exhibition includes personal testimony from survivors.

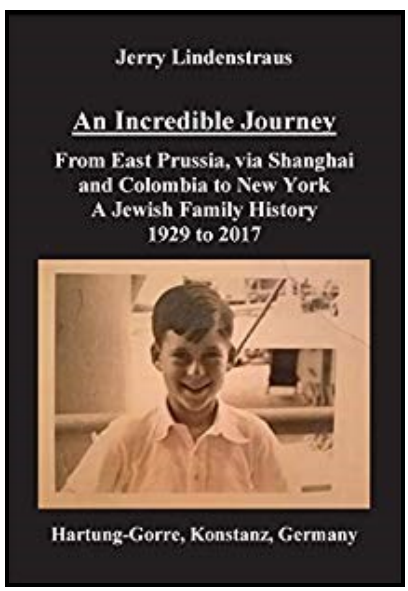
For me, the most chilling article in the exhibit is the wire mesh gas column that was used to deliver gas into the crematorium at Auschwitz. What did the captors think of as they delivered death sentences?

The sense that I was surrounded by my community made me feel empowered and comforted. We not only exist, we exist together.

- Prof. Carol L. Fox
Recording Secretary
Co-Chair of Publications Committee

Jerry Lindenstraus, Survivor

In *An Incredible Journey: From East Prussia, via Shanghai and Colombia to New York; A Family History*, Jerry Lindenstraus offers a compelling, true story about his experiences as a survivor of World War Two. Lindenstraus discusses life as a survivor from a place few know of as a place of asylum during World War Two: Shanghai. Shanghai was one of the last locations that offered German Jews, in the late 1930s, a place to escape.



Born in 1929, Mr. Lindenstraus was born into a well-to-do family in Germany. First moving to Danzig, the family soon realized that they would have to escape further. They were forced to sell their store and real estate holdings at a fraction of their worth. Lindenstraus' parents divorced. In 1936, his mother, Lille, remarried, and in 1938 she and her new husband relocated to Colombia. Jerry remained with his father, Louis.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

Louis and Jerry then moved to Koenigsburg where they lived through the horror of Kristallnacht. In the meantime, Louis remarried a woman named Lillie Guter.

Jerry loved watching military bands, but was once discovered by Nazi children and was beaten. By 1939, few countries were accepting Jews for entry. The only available choice was Shanghai. Shanghai was an open international city. Luckily, Shanghai did not require visas which the Lindenstraus family could not obtain from Germany, as they were no longer considered German. Louis Lindenstraus purchased ten tickets on a German luxury ship heading for Shanghai. Still a young child, Jerry found life on the ship to be exciting. They fortunately left for Shanghai immediately before war broke out. If they had not left at the time they did, the family would have been completely prevented from leaving. Louis had forwarded some money to a cousin in Great Britain; however, after one minimal payment, the cousin never sent any more of the Lindenstraus' money. Louis Lindenstraus died four months later. Jerry stayed in Shanghai with his step-mother, Lillie. For the following year, Jerry said Kaddish for his father at a Russian synagogue, Congregation Ohel Moise. There were 18,000 German and Austrian refugees in Shanghai. After 1941, the Japanese forced everyone to live in a Hongkew ghetto. The Japanese captors treated the Jewish refugees relatively well though, especially since the Nazis pressured the Japanese to harm the Jews.

Sephardic Jews had arrived in Shanghai some one hundred years earlier. They were originally from Iraq and were considered wealthy. There were members of the Kadoorie, Sassoon, and Hardoon families. These families provided assistance to the refugees. The Sephardic school was taught in English. On Friday evenings, at Friday Shabbat services, Jerry liked to sing L'cha dodi, something he enjoys to this day. Jobs were hard to come by and most refugees sold their possessions to get some money. There were three daily German newspapers, but the family now lived in the poorer area. The refugees communicated with the Chinese in slang, Pidgin English. The refugees still favored German style furniture and were able to get German cold cuts. They did not have a kitchen or running water; they used an outhouse that was on the roof near the charcoal stove. Food was scarce and Jerry survived on sweet potatoes. He ate so many, that it took fifty years before he could eat another sweet potato again. The family lived in a single room that was partitioned with a rug. Lillie was strict, but took excellent care of Jerry. They were considered stateless. Conditions worsened and they had to move to Heime (camps). Camps were run by refugee organizations, including HIAS. In 1942, Jerry became a Bar Mitzvah at the same synagogue where he had said Kaddish. Lillie gave Jerry Louis' tallit. Jerry continued to use this tallit for High Holy Days.

HIAS (Hicem)
Vertretungen
in allen Teilen der Welt
SUCHE NACH VERWANDTEN
in allen Laendern der Erde
Individuelle Hilfsgesuche
an Angehoerige
SAMMELTELEGRAMME AUSKUENFTE
wegen Weiterwanderung
Zuverlaessige Informationen ueber
Einreisebestimmungen sowie Lebensbedingungen
in ueberseeischen Laendern
Zentrale Shanghai:
24 Central Road, Room 206
Zweigstelle Hongkew:
599 Tongshan Road, House 92

HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) advertisement published in a German Jewish refugee newspaper in Shanghai

After 1943, the Japanese barred shipments sent from American relief organizations. Thus, conditions became less sanitary and disease spread. In 1944, Lillie remarried but Jerry remained with them. Conditions kept deteriorating and Jerry came down with malaria and jaundice. The toughest years were 1944 - 45. On July 17, 1945, the Air Force bombed Shanghai, but first dropped warning leaflets for the refugees. Forty-five refugees were killed along with hundreds of Chinese. The Americans informed them that the end of the war was near. The ghetto ended on September 3, 1945. The American soldiers were kind and gave Chanukah gelt to the children, one dollar each. Luckily, Jerry was able to gain employment as a civilian with the American Armed Forces.

In 1947, Jerry's mother, Lille, sent Jerry a ticket to join her in Bogota, Colombia. His stepmother Lillie was heartbroken when Jerry left. Once again, HIAS assisted the Jewish refugees. In Colombia, Jerry lived a German-oriented existence. However, when Jerry's mother, Lille, passed away in 1951, Jerry headed for the United States. His step-mother, Lillie, now lived in Monroe, Louisiana. She and a distant cousin, Neiman Marcus, helped Jerry get an American visa.

Jerry eventually made his way to New York City and he married Erica. They had a son, Leslie. Jerry started a successful export business. Jerry traveled with Leslie to the places that Jerry formerly lived, including Shanghai, Germany, and Colombia. Leslie has two children, Jessica and Aaron. At Aaron's Bar Mitzvah, Jerry gave Aaron the tallit that had belonged to Jerry's father, Louis.

Jerry stated that these days, he has no feelings for Germany or Shanghai. Now only family matters. Jerry believes it is his duty to relay his story in order to educate people about the Jews in Shanghai during World War Two. Jerry still prays daily and tries to do good in the world. He tells his family, "If I didn't end up in Shanghai, I would not be here today and neither would you…."

- Prof. Carol L. Fox
Recording Secretary
Co-Chair of Publications Committee

Our new Exhibit's Opening Reception, December 15th

Prompted by the donation of family mementos from Yohanan and Sophie Perry of Manalapan, The Jewish Heritage Museum has installed its newest exhibit, *Jews of India: The History and Practices of the Bene Israel, Cochin, and Baghdadi Jews*. The Opening Reception was held on Sunday, December 15th, and was attended by over 60 people, including visitors from the three Indian Jewish groups profiled in the exhibit. This exhibit may be the ONLY such exhibit outside of India or Israel which highlights this interesting aspect of world Jewry.

The program for the Opening began with Welcome Remarks from Executive Director, Jessica Solomon, and Board President, Alice Berman. This was followed by a blessing from Rabbi Avrohom Bernstein, of Chabad in Freehold, who commented that this exhibit emphasizes the global presence of Jews in the world and their continued adherence to faith traditions wherever they settle. Rabbi Robert Rubin of Congregation Beth Or also offered greetings. The gathering was then introduced to David Galsurkar from the Bene Israel community, who took everyone on a "tour" of some of the most significant prayer melodies, including one that is central to Bene Israel practice, Eliyahoo HaNabee, which precedes all happy occasions including brit milah, weddings, and b'nai mitzvahs. While the words of the prayers may be familiar, these melodies are distinct to the Bene Israel, and the Museum has some related recordings.

Sherona Varulkar offered a summary of the early historical legend of the Bene Israel: children are all told that they are descended from seven men and seven women who survived a shipwreck some 2000 years ago on the Konkin coast of India, having come from northern Israel. These seven couples retained four religious practices: observing Shabbat, observing kashrut, performing brit milah, and saying the Shema. Many other practices were taught to them in later centuries by other Jews who settled in India, in particular the Cochin Jews who have their own history of coming to India. Sherona pointed out that because the Bene Israel settled so long ago, they were unaware of the history surrounding the Maccabees and did not know about Chanukah until much later!

Manalapan resident Gila Mordechai Rosenblatt, born in Bombay and a member of the Cochin community, spoke about her family and the community's life in India, and its eventual emigration to Israel after 1948. There are few, if any, Cochin Jews remaining in India today. In February, Gila will be giving a PowerPoint talk about the history of Cochin Jews.

Visiting from Washington, DC, a member of the Baghdadi community, Nancy Hashem, spoke about her connections to the Baghdadis even though she was born in the US. She emphasized her emotional attachment to this part of her heritage and that she has plans to go to India to visit those places where her family originated.

Finally, Yohanan Perry spoke about his extensive career and life experiences, focusing on the years during the 1970s when he and Sophie moved from India to Israel, and he served in the Israeli Defense Forces. He told of his involvement in secret missions to Iran to rescue and facilitate the escape of Jews, just after the fall of the Shah. More of their Bene Israel connection is seen through several artifacts in the exhibit including wedding photos, books of songs, psalms, the Bible, belonging to Yohanan's parents and grandmother, and a book of Bene Israel customs, which he co-authored.

The wine and cheese reception included a Malida prepared by Sophie Perry, a celebratory platter which includes five whole fruits (often dates and banana, plus apple, pear, and orange), spices (cloves) for smelling, and a dish of rice mixed with coconut, almonds, pistachios, and cardamom, which everyone had the chance to taste. In addition, homemade halva, a traditional treat for the Jewish New Year, was provided by Naomi Abraham.

Continued on Page 8

Continued from page 7

Another part of the exhibit highlights the story of the Jewish actresses of the Indian film industry at the beginning of the 20th century. Since Hindu women were not permitted to perform publicly, it gave Indian Jewish women an opportunity to work and make a name for themselves, the Jewish Actresses of Bollywood. A short trailer for the film *Shalom Bollywood* was shown, and the Museum is hoping to show the entire film this spring.

The exhibit has been aided by others who have provided photographs, posters, and other items which will be displayed at various times throughout the run of the exhibit, which is expected to be in place through the summer of 2020.

The Museum is indebted to Yohanan and Sophie for their generosity both for thinking of the Museum as a repository for their donations, and for their time and energy in publicizing the Opening, reaching out to the Bene Israel community, and helping put together aspects of the exhibit. The effort was completed with cooperation of the Museum Exhibits Committee: Gloria Berman, Heather Markson, Hilda Mesnick, Michele Klausner, Jeff Wolf, and Bella Zelingher, and edited by Carol Fox.

This is a Jewish story well worth knowing more about. Come Visit! and enjoy the exhibit with a docent to guide you.

- Alice Berman
Chair, Exhibits Committee

David Galsurkar sings prayers using Bene Israel melodies

Gila Rosenblatt, Alice Berman, and Sam Langman consider refreshments including homemade halva and a Malida tray (lower right)

Yohanan Perry speaking at the opening reception

Display case with examples of yarmulkes, and a First Day cover of the stamp issued on Dec. 15, 1968, honoring the 400th anniversary of the Cochin Paradesi Synagogue

Shabbat Handi – a two light fixture which holds oil and wicks and is lit on Shabbat as well as other holy days

The Jewish Stars of Bollywood display case

Rabbi Robert Rubin, Temple Beth Or in Brick, and Executive Director Jessica Solomon greet guests

A display with a number of items donated by the Perry Family

Sherona Varulkar, Yohanan Perry, and Nancy Hashem

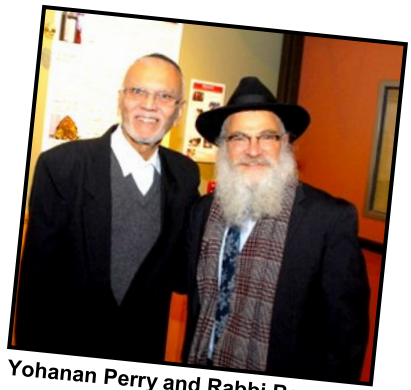
Sophie Perry (R) with Board member Helene Cohen

Gila Rosenblatt speaks about the Cochin Jews

Members of the Bene Israel community in NJ and NY:
(R. to L.)
Sophie Perry,
Erna Daniel,
Sherona Varulkar,
Naomi Abrams,
Yohanan Perry,
Edna Bhonkar,
David Galsurkar, and
David Bhonkar
Seated: Sam Daniel

(L. to R.) Executive Director Jessica Solomon and President Alice Berman addressing the visitors at the opening reception of the exhibit

Attendees enjoying the presentation at the exhibit opening reception



Yohanan Perry and Rabbi Bernstein

A Very Special Yom HaShoah Program

Dr. Dienke Hondius

To commemorate 2020's Yom HaShoah, Dr. Dienke Hondius, will honor the Museum with a visit and lecture about Anne Frank and about World War II, sometime in May of 2020.

Dr. Hondius is an author and an assistant professor of history at Vrije University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She is also an advisor and staff member at the Anne Frank House, where she helped create the first traveling exhibit entitled, *The Anne Frank House in the World of 1929 – 1945.* In 1990, Dr. Hondius

Anne Frank House street sign in Amsterdam

enjoyed the opportunity to present this exhibit to Nelson Mandela, then recently released from prison. In 2004 – 2010, Dr. Hondius contributed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's, *Project Eyewitness of the Holocaust,* an oral history of survivors, bystanders, and perpetrators to the Holocaust. Her new research is *Mapping Hiding Places of Survivors.* Dr. Hondius is a prolific publisher of books and articles about anti-Semitism, racism, and World War II. Two of her many books that have been translated into English are, *Holocaust Survivors and Dutch Anti-Semitism* and *Lessons of War Education about World War Two Since 1945.*

Dr. Hondius received her doctorate from the University of Amsterdam, in 1999, from the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She wrote her dissertation on accepting and avoidance of ethnic and religious differences in mixed marriages in the Netherlands. She has also taught at Erasmus University Rotterdam and University Utrecht.

The Museum looks forward to Dr. Hondius' visit. We are indeed fortunate to host such an internationally renowned scholar of Dr. Hondius' caliber. You will not want to miss this event.

- Lola Kline
Member, Program Committee, Docent

Save the Date for these Events Coming in May and June

Yom Hashoah Program
Date/Time TBA

Anne Frank, The Anne Frank House and Anti-Semitism

A Talk by Dr. Dienke Hondius

Dr. Hondius is a prolific publisher of books and articles on anti-Semitism, racism, and World War II. She is also an advisor and staff member at the Anne Frank House, where she helped create the first traveling exhibit entitled, *The Anne Frank House in the World of 1929-1945.*

$12 members, $15 non-members

Sunday, May 31, 2020 2 PM

A Journey from the Rabbinate to Cabaret Singer

A Cabaret Concert performed by Rabbi Deborah Zechar

Deborah Zechar has been singing all her life, primarily in the synagogue. In 1995, she was invited to be a guest speaker at a local synagogue, but asked if she could do a musical program instead and a new passion was born!
Join us on Sunday May 31st, for an enjoyable afternoon of song.

$15 members, $18 non-members

June 14, 2020 4:30 PM

From Gershwin to Glass

A Concert by the Bravura Orchestra Chamber Ensemble

The performance will include compositions by Ira Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Karl Goldmark, and Philip Glass.

$18 members, $20 non-members
$75 sponsorship (includes 2 tickets and name in program)

Brick by Brick - *Putting it Together*

Join with the Jewish Heritage Museum in honoring and memorializing your family members by purchasing an engraved Heritage Brick that will be placed in the courtyard in front of the Museum. A Heritage Brick can be purchased to honor or remember a loved one, announce the birth of a child, commemorate an anniversary, graduation, or special event, or even publicize a business. The possibilities are as varied as the stories the JHMOMC is dedicated to telling.

Your purchase of a Heritage Brick will help fund programs, projects, and exhibits, and provide resources to maintain archives and artifacts, as the Museum continues to build toward the future.

The JHMOMC is a jewel in the Jewish community and serves as a hub of local Jewish history, heritage, and commonality through the preservation of the stories of the past and present for the future.

Thank you for your support as we tell the story of the Jewish experience in Monmouth County together.

The cost of each Heritage Brick is $136. Please allow 8 – 10 weeks for the custom engraving and installation of your Brick. You will be notified when your Brick has been installed. 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 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -Heritage Brick Order Form- - - - - - -Please feel free to copy this form. - - - -

Name_____ **Phone #**_____

Address_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Email_____ **#of Bricks ordered**_____

Please print clearly using one box per character with a 3 line maximum.

Upcoming Events at the JHMOMC

The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County presents its winter 2020

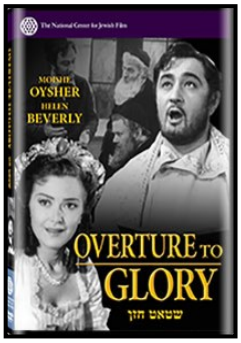
יידישע פֿילם פֿעסטיוואל

Sunday, January 12, 2020 2 PM

(Inclement weather date - January 19th at 2 PM)

Overture to Glory (Der Vilner Balebesl)

USA, 1940, 77 minutes
B&W, Yiddish with English subtitles
Directed by Max Nosseck



The cantor of the Vilna Synagogue, played by the great real-life cantor Moishe Oysher, leaves behind his prayers to perform in the Warsaw Opera. He struggles to balance the appeal of his newfound fame and notoriety with feelings of guilt and responsibility toward his family and community.

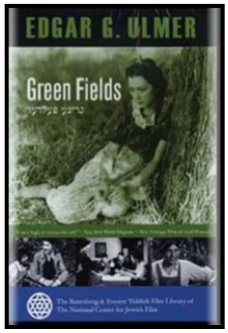
Featuring perhaps the most convincing scenes of synagogue life in any fiction film, *Overture to Glory* begins during the morning service on Rosh Hashanah and ends at Kol Nidre, making the story a kind of redemptive journey during the Days of Awe.

Sunday, February 9, 2020 2 PM

(Inclement weather date - February 12th at 2 PM)

Green Fields (Grine Felder)

USA, 1937, 95 minutes,
B&W Yiddish with new English subtitles
Directed by Edgar G. Ulmer and Jacob Ben-Ami

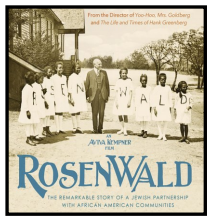


A soulful, open-air adaptation of Peretz Hirshbein's classic play heralded the Golden Age of Yiddish cinema. When an ascetic young scholar ventures into the countryside, searching for the city of "true Jews," he learns some unexpected lessons from the Jewish peasants who take him in as a tutor for their children. This 1937 American comedy features child actor Herschel Bernardi, later to be an adult star on Broadway, in films and on television.

$10 members (per film), $12 non-members (per film)

Sunday, January 26, 2020 2 PM

(inclement weather date, February 2nd at 2 PM)



Film: Rosenwald

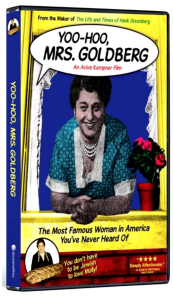
Rosenwald tells the incredible story of Julius Rosenwald, the son of an immigrant peddler who never finished high school, who rose to become the President of Sears. Influenced by the writings of the educator Booker T. Washington, this Jewish philanthropist joined forces with African American communities during the Jim Crow South to build 5,300 schools, providing 660,000 black children with access to education in the segregated American South.

$10 members , $12 non-members

This program is sponsored in part by Gary Matoren in memory of his daughter, Debbie Lynn Matoren, and in honor of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County and the Jewish Community.

Sunday, February 23, 2020 2 PM

(inclement weather date, March 1st at 2 PM)



Yoo - Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg

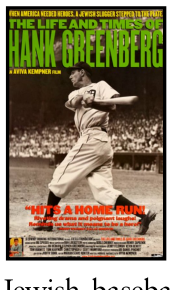
This film is the humorous and eye-opening story of television pioneer Gertrude Berg. She was the creator, principal writer, and star of *The Goldbergs*, a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television's very first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. Berg received the first Best Actress Emmy in history and paved the way for women in the entertainment industry. The film includes interviews with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, actor Ed Asner, producers Norman Lear (*All in the Family*) Gary David Goldberg (*Family Ties*), and NPR correspondent Susan Stamberg.

$10 members, $12 non-members

Sunday, March 8, 2020 2 PM

(inclement weather date, March 8th at 2 PM)

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg



The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg is a feature length documentary film about an extraordinary baseball player who transcended ethnic and religious prejudice to become a hero for all Americans. Hank Greenberg's achievements during the "Golden Age of Baseball" in the thirties and forties rivaled those of Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. As America's first Jewish baseball star, he helped break down the barriers of discrimination in American sports and society. Greenberg was a beacon of hope to millions of American Jews who faced bigotry during the Depression and World War II.

$10 members, $12 non-members

This program is sponsored in part by Gary Matoren in memory of his daughter, Debbie Lynn Matoren, and in honor of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County and the Jewish Community.

Jews of Cochin
A Talk by Gila Rosenblatt

Gila Rosenblatt

Born in India, now living in Monmouth County, Gila Rosenblatt will discuss the history of Cochin Jews of India from their earliest days to the present. She will present infomation on how this group first settled in India, the growth of the Cochin community, and their eventual resettlement in Israel and the United States. Her talk includes insight into different aspects of Jewish life in India including food and recipes, and some of their unique ritual practices. Visitors will also be able to taste a sample of Cochin fare.

Jews of Cochin, circa 1880

Sunday, February 16, 2020
2 PM
(inclement weather date, February 19th at 1 PM)

$10 members,
$12 non-members

Molly Picon: A Yiddish Gem

Dr. Diane Cypkin

Molly Picon

Presented by Dr. Diane Cypkin, professor of media and communication arts at Pace University

Star of Yiddish and Broadway Theater, Screen and Television

Sunday, March 22, 2020 2 PM
$12 members, $15 non-members

Join us for an afternoon of singing and storytelling

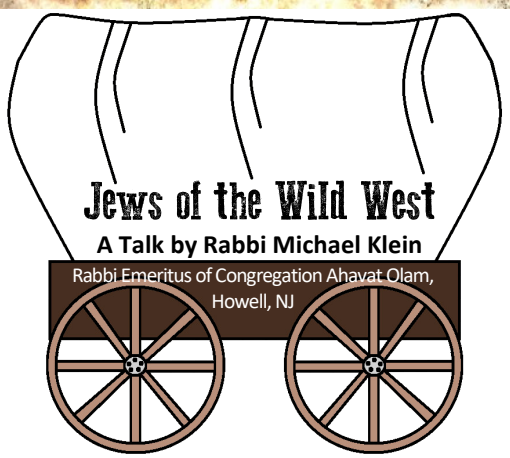
This program is sponsored in part by a donation from Dean Ross.

Growing Up Jewish in Rural New Jersey
A Talk by William Agress

Willaim Agress returns to the Museum to present the story of his parents and grandparents who lived in Perrineville. His talk will include the forming of the Perrineville Jewish Center, farming in the area and how Perrineville was at one time a mini "Catskills."

Sunday, April 19, 2020 2 PM
$10 members, $12 non-members

This program is sponsored in part by Gary Matoren in memory of his daughter, Debbie Lynn Matoren, and in honor of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County and the Jewish Community.



It may come as a surprise to discover that there was a Jewish presence in America's Old West! Jews were involved at the Alamo, with Wyatt Earp, with Native Americans, and in many other facets of life and history from the California gold rush to Tombstone, Arizona. Come learn more about this surprising and fascinating piece of American history.

Sunday, March 29, 2020 2 PM
$8 members, $10 non-members

This program is sponsored in part by Gary Matoren in memory of his daughter, Debbie Lynn Matoren, and in honor of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County and the Jewish Community.

Sunday April 26, 2020 2 PM
A Living Artist and her Work
A Talk by Artist Leora Asa

Leora Asa

Leora Asa, a native Israeli and long-time Monmouth County resident has been represented in many local and national exhibitions. Long inspired by Cezanne, Gaugin, Chagall, and Klimt, Leora is proficient in a variety of uniquely stylized landscape, still life, and abstract art forms. Yet her range of artistic endeavors reach far beyond the canvas. Her eclectic style can be seen in custom designed handmade rugs, exquisitely detailed wall hangings and assemblages, and murals for any application.

$10 members, $12 non-members

JHMOMC Calendar of Events, Winter/Early Spring 2020

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM *Jewish Journaling Workshop* $5 per session

Sunday (Inclement weather date, Sunday, January 19th at 2 PM)	January 12	2 PM	Film: *Overture to Glory (Der Vilner Balebesl)* $10 members, $12 non members
Sunday (inclement weather date, February 2nd at 2 PM)	January 26	2 PM	Film: *Rosenwald* $10 members, $12 non members
Sunday (Inclement weather date February 12th at 2 PM)	February 9	2 PM	Film: *Green Fields (Grine Felder)* $10 members, $12 non members
Sunday (inclement weather date, February 19th at 1 PM)	February 16	2 PM	*Jews of Cochin* A Talk by Gila Rosenblatt $10 members, $12 non members
Sunday (inclement weather date, March 1st at 2 PM)	February 23	2 PM	Film: *Yoo - Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg* $10 members, $12 non members
Sunday	March 8	2 PM	Film: *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* $10 members, $12 non members
Sunday	March 22	2 PM	*Molly Picon: A Yiddish Gem* A Talk by Dr. Diane Cypkin $12 members, $15 non-members
Sunday	March 29	2 PM	*Jews of the Wild West* A Talk by Rabbi Michael Klein $8 members, $10 non-members
Sunday	April 19	2 PM	*Growing Up Jewish in Rural New Jersey* A Talk by William Agress $10 members, $12 non members
Sunday	April 26	2 PM	*A Living Artist and her Work* A Talk by Leora Asa $10 members, $12 non members
Date/Time	TBA		*Ann Frank, The Ann Frank House, and Anti-Semitism* Presented by Dr. Dienke Hondius $12 members, $15 non-members
Sunday	May 31	2 PM	*A Journey from the Rabbinate to Cabaret Singer* A Cabaret Concert performed by Rabbi Deborah Zechar $15 members, $18 non-members
Sunday	June 14	4:30 PM	*From Gershwin to Glass* A Concert by the Bravura Chamber Ensemble $18 members, $20 non-members, $75 sponsorship (includes 2 tickets and name in 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.

Become a Member

The Jewish Heritage Museum is pleased that its membership is growing! Becoming a member and renewing membership, ensures that we will be here to achieve our mission and goals. Membership to this "hidden jewel" in the community is essential to keeping our Jewish heritage alive.

Please support the Museum by completing this membership form and returning it today! Volunteer, visit, and attend programs, but become a member first. Thank you.

- Helene Cohen
Chair, Membership Committee

Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County

310 Mounts Corner Drive, Freehold, NJ 07728
732-252-6990

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

BASIC Membership

___ Individual	$20.00
___ Family	$36.00
___ Institutional	$40.00
___ Senior (age 65)/Student	$18.00

ENHANCED Membership - includes the Basic Membership level of your choice **(select above)** with your enhanced level **(check below)** of the Museum. Thank you for your support!

___ Supporter	$50
___ Patron	$100
___ Benefactor	$250
___ Donor	$500
___ Founder	$1000+

LIFE & LEGACY
Assuring JEWISH TOMORROWS
A program of the HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

☐ I have already remembered The Jewish Heritage Museum in my estate plan.
☐ I would like information on remembering The Jewish Heritage Museum in my estate plan.

Preserving the Past and Present for the Future

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code _____

Tel.#_____ E-mail_____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:
JHMOMC, PO BOX 7078, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728
Or, to register online, go to www.jhmomc.org /membership

The JHMOMC is a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is handicapped accessible. Donations and membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Consult with a tax professional.

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Monmouth County
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The Jewish Federation IN THE HEART OF NEW JERSEY THRIVING TOGETHER

DON'T MISS OUT ON FUTURE ISSUES OF *HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS*!

Receiving *Heritage Highlights* at your home is a benefit of
MEMBERSHIP at the Jewish Heritage Museum.
This issue is the last one which will be sent to those who are not Museum members.

Membership at the Museum is a way for all members of the community to connect with each other and support its infrastructure. Membership support helps to ensure that the Museum has the resources it needs to continue to link the community to its history, its shared Jewish heritage, and to produce and distribute *Heritage Highlights*.

If you have not renewed your membership, or have allowed it to lapse, this is a good time to complete the **Membership Form on the inside back cover (page 15)** and return it with your annual membership amount to the Museum.

BE A MEMBER! RECEIVE *HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS* IN YOUR MAILBOX!